

6th October 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Referring to the public consultation of Attica & Peloponnisos MSW tenders in Greece

Waste-to-Energy (WtE) technology (incineration with energy recovery) is one of the most robust and effective alternative energy options to reduce CO₂ emissions and to save limited fossil fuel resources used by traditional power plants.

On the basis that about 70 million tonnes of household and similar waste that remains after waste prevention, reuse and recycling, was treated in WtE Plants across Europe in 2009, 28 billion kWh of electricity and 70 billion kWh of heat can be generated. Then between 7-38 million tonnes of fossil fuels (gas, oil, hard coal or lignite) can be substituted annually, emitting 19-38 million tonnes of CO₂.

About 50% of the energy produced by WtE Plants comes from biodegradable biomass and helps to achieve the European Union (EU)'s policy for **renewable energy sources** to cover 20% of the whole energy consumption by 2020.

The **Directive 2009/28/EC on energy from renewable sources** clearly states in **Article 2:**

*“(e) ‘biomass’ means the biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from biological origin from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries including fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the **biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste;**”*

In 2010 WtE Plants supplied about 50 TWh (50 billion kWh) of **renewable energy** in Europe. This will grow by 2020 to at least 67 TWh (67 billion kWh), and could **potentially reach 98 TWh** (98 billion kWh).

Waste-to-Energy:

- produces sustainable, cost-effective and reliable **local energy**
- while replacing fossil fuels
- and helping to divert waste from landfills

According to the new EU **Waste Framework Directive 2008/98 (Annex II)**, the incineration of municipal waste can only be considered as an “energy recovery” operation when the R1 energy efficiency factor of the process is (for new WtE Plants) greater than 0.65. In any other case it is considered as a disposal operation.

We would like to highlight that the R1 factor for new WtE Plants can be greater than 0.65, even in plants exclusively producing electricity. The new WtE plant in Meath, Ireland, with an estimated R1 factor greater than 0.65, achieved with electricity production only, is one characteristic example.



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CEWEP is the umbrella association of the operators of Waste-to-Energy plants across Europe. They thermally treat household and similar waste that remains after waste prevention, reuse and recycling by generating energy from it. This is how they replace fossil fuels, such as coal, gas and oil, used by conventional power plants. At the same time Waste-to-Energy plants help to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions by diverting waste from landfills.