

Monday 4th January 2010 Points West Report

Reporter Steve Knibbs with statement quotes from Stan Waddington (Glos. C.C.) and David Purchase (campaigner against waste incineration)

(In response to the reporter's ,Steve Knibbs, Gloucestershire reporter for BBC Points West, commentary:)

“It’s fair to say a lot of us are keen on recycling, in fact, many centres will have been busy over the past week getting rid of all that excess Christmas packaging. But there’s still some way to go to meet Government targets and we can’t recycle everything and here’s part of the problem: this is the land fill site in Hempstead in Gloucester, the council’s other one is in Stoke Orchard near Bishops Cleeve, and they’re both almost full. The council estimates it needs space for 170 thousand tons of residual waste in the future, it’s obviously not sustainable to bring it here, not to mention the cost in terms of Land Fill Tax. So Gloucestershire County Council has put out a tender to deal with the waste once landfill fills up, with strict criteria: ”

(Stan Waddington then states, on camera):

**“One of them is an environmental aspect, you know, how, how environmentally friendly is the process.
Er, cost obviously comes into it.
Flexibility of solution, because nobody can be sure, looking into the future, how much waste Gloucestershire or anywhere else is going to produce.”**

(Steve Knibbs, Gloucestershire reporter for BBC Points West, continues:)

“So how will it be done? Well it could biomechanical biological treatment where the waste is composted or digested, or it could be a scheme which has got protesters hot under the collar – incineration.

(In the background Campaigners singing words from one of their campaign songs "Battle Hymn of Garbage" The words can be found at www.glosain.org.uk.)

"We don't want incineration, we don't want incineration...."

(Steve Knibbs continues:)

Although the Council hasn't said which technology it prefers, burning the waste has prompted demos at almost every meeting held about the issue.

(David Purchase, campaigner against waste incineration, states, on camera:)

"There's far far better, greener, environmentally friendly types of technology out there.

Really what the County Council should be doing is to say: we are ruling out incineration completely from our waste strategy. That would make a big sigh of relief, or give a big sigh of relief to people in Gloucestershire, and then they could work on these particular, different treatments such as invest in composting, anaerobic digestion.."

(Steve Knibbs continues:)

"There 's a lot riding on this contract and four companies are in the frame: Complete Circle, Cory Environmental, Urbaser and Viridor. By the autumn two will be eliminated, with the winner possibly announced at the end of this year. The prize? Well, a 25 year billion pound contract to put an end to landfill for the next generation. Steve Knibbs, BBC Points West, Gloucester."