Clean air is a Human Right
Stop the Incinerator!
We need each other - that is why we are here!

Goals for today:
1. To share what we have learned about the incinerator so that we understand the problem we face.
2. To have a good discussion about the issue, listen to your thoughts and answer questions.
3. For this amazing group of people to begin to connect and get to know each other (and to think about who else we want to get involved!).
4. To plan our next steps to stop the incinerator and begin to think about positive alternatives.

Main beliefs:
1. We are in a power struggle to stop the incinerator
2. We have the ability to win but we cannot do it alone
3. We can create a functional democratic process to learn and work together
4. We can create a vision for Fair Development alternatives to the incinerator
We created a video to tell our own story and shine a light on the issue. Margaret Atwood and Bill McKibben have expressed support for our work.

https://vimeo.com/74501368
We are a group of students joining together with parents, teachers and community members to fight for our basic human rights.
We meet every week to study, reflect and act together.
We started paying closer attention to issues in our community and learned about something that really caught our eye...
Since 2009 there has been a plan to build the nation’s largest trash-burning incinerator less than a mile from schools here in Baltimore.
We found out years after political, legal and economic choices were already made.

We wanted to learn more and asked a lot of questions:

- How would the incinerator affect us, our city and beyond?
- How were decisions made and who was involved?
- What did other community members know and what did they think about the incinerator?
- One question that kept going through our minds was: Why build such a massive incinerator so close to our schools?
How would the incinerator impact us?

- The incinerator would need to burn 4,000 tons of trash per day to stay in operation.
- We are talking about tires, metals and plastics along with household garbage.
- What’s more: A lot of the garbage would need to be imported from other states just to keep the incinerator burning.
Trash incinerators pump out more pollution and produce more greenhouse gases per hour of energy than Maryland’s largest coal-fired plants. (Environmental Integrity Project Report).

This incinerator would release 240 lbs of brain-damaging mercury into the air every year. It would also release 1,000 lbs of harmful lead per year into the air we breathe, along with dioxins and ultra fine particulates.

These particles can be lethal, causing cancer, heart attacks, strokes, asthma, and pulmonary disease. It is estimated that airborne particulates cause the deaths of more than 2 million people worldwide each year.
And we are still left with a lot of toxic ash

Between 15 and 25 percent of the incinerated trash ends up as ash that then has to be dealt with (landfilling is one way to dispose of ash).

Curtis Bay is also very close to the site of a large landfill. As you will see during this presentation, Curtis Bay, Brooklyn, Fairfield and Wagners Point have a long history of living next to polluting developments.
Where would the incinerator be built?

The incinerator would be built in Fairfield at the site of a former pesticide manufacturing company called FMC.

People used to live in Fairfield, but in the late 1990s the entire community, along with nearby Wagners Point, had to leave because of the high levels of toxic pollution.
The largest trash-burning incinerator in the nation would be less than a mile away from schools in Curtis Bay.

The incinerator would be less than a mile from schools, playgrounds and homes in Curtis Bay.

Benjamin Franklin HS and Curtis Bay Elementary are less than a mile away, and 18 other schools are within 3 miles of the proposed incinerator.

Curtis Bay Elementary/Middle School and Benjamin Franklin High School fall within the one mile buffer.
Curtis Bay already has major problems with air pollution from industrial sources.

Blue icons = schools, gardens, and rec centers.

Yellow icons = industrial pollution sources.

Red icons = industrial pollution sources that have violated or are currently violating the Clean Air Act and/or Clean Water Act.

We have counted 18 so far.
Baltimore City and the community of Curtis Bay already overburdened with toxic air pollution:

Curtis Bay has the highest level of toxic air pollution in Maryland and Baltimore City has the highest rate of air pollution related deaths in the nation.

4x as many people die from air pollution related causes than homicides in Baltimore City each year.
Energy Answers fought hard for political decisions that would help their project.

“Energy Answers International, which is building a waste-to-energy plant in Baltimore, contributed $100,000 to the [Democratic Governors Association] during the period. The check is dated the day O'Malley announced he would sign into law a bill potentially worth millions to the company that allows garbage incineration to be counted as a renewable energy source.” (Baltimore Sun, 2011)
How did this happen?
ECONOMIC DECISIONS

“The key to this is going to be the energy sales,” Kurt Krammer, project manager for Energy Answers. (Daily Record, 2011)

1) Incinerators, in general, are very expensive to build and operate. This one would cost around $1 billion.

2) Energy Answers does not have $1 billion dollars lying around. This means they need to attract investors to finance the project.

3) In order to attract investors Energy Answers needs to get customers to purchase the electricity they hope to generate.
"The Fairfield Renewable Energy Project is an exciting addition to the entire region," said Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Chair of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC). "The contract to purchase energy from the new plant will help Energy Answers obtain financing, and will also help protect local governments from fluctuations in the energy market."
How did this happen?

LEGAL DECISIONS

A Maryland law prohibits incinerators from being built within a mile of schools. Energy Answers fought hard to get around this and avoid costly delays.

“A delay could have been deadly for the project,” said Todd Chason, an attorney representing the company. “Three hundred million (in federal stimulus grant money) is on the line, and we had to get shovels in the ground by the end of the year to qualify.” (Daily Record, 2011)
First, we have to consider that the trash we are burning, such as rubber tires, is made up of limited natural resources. Burning these resources for electricity creates a demand for waste and undermines conservation and recycling.

More than 90 percent of the materials burned in incinerators could be reused, recycled or composted.

Therefore, not only is incineration not a renewable source of energy, it also wastes precious resources.
Incinerators are the most expensive method to generate energy and to handle waste. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration Annual Energy Outlook 2010, the projected capital cost of new waste incinerator facilities is $8,232 per kilowatt hour. Waste incinerators are hands-down the most expensive technology for generating electricity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Capital Cost</th>
<th>Fixed O&amp;M</th>
<th>Variable O&amp;M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventional natural gas</td>
<td>$978</td>
<td>$14.39</td>
<td>$3.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind (onshore)</td>
<td>$2,438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conventional coal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photovoltaic (large scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coal with carbon capture and sequestration</td>
<td>$5,348</td>
<td>$69.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trash Incineration</td>
<td>$8,232</td>
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</table>
The Incinerator is projected to create around 150 permanent “green” jobs (EnergyAnswers.com).

With a national recycling rate of less than 33%, U.S. recycling industries currently provide more than 800,000 jobs. A national recycling rate of 75% would create 1.5 million jobs.
Incinerators burn jobs, burn money and burn precious resources.

Communities all across the world stand up to fight against them. No new incinerator has been built in the US since 1997!
We believe the incinerator represents a big problem. We decided to do as much as we could to raise awareness.
We wanted to find out what our neighbors thought about the project. Of the hundreds we spoke with, only a handful knew it existed. Almost everyone had serious questions and concerns.
What do community members think about the incinerator?

https://vimeo.com/104261316
Free Your Voice gave presentations on the issue all across the city. Students, parent and teachers are getting involved.
We started an online petition with a goal of getting 1,000 signatures. We currently have more than 2,000.
We organized a big march from Benjamin Franklin less than a mile to the site of the incinerator.

Stop the Incinerator!
We received a lot of support and media coverage for our campaign to Stop the Incinerator.

BALTIMORE BREW

Pollution-weary students stage a march to protest incinerator
Already breathing the dirtiest air in the city, south Baltimore students say Albany company's trash-to-energy plant will worsen it

GRIST.ORG

Smokestack city: An industrial neighborhood decides it has had enough

By Brentin Mock
We reflected and developed a strategy we believed in and thought would stop the incinerator.

“The key to this is going to be the energy sales,” Kurt Krammer, project manager for Energy Answers. (Daily Record, 2011)
This brought us back to the question: Who will be buying energy from the incinerator?

In August 2011, the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee contracted with Energy Answers to buy 25 megawatts of Tier 1 renewable energy.

This means that 22 public entities across the state, including Baltimore City Public Schools, would be buying 20% of the electricity produced by the incinerator.
Complete list of public buyers of energy from the incinerator

Governments
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Carroll County
- Harford County
- Howard County

Public Schools
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Anne Arundel
- Harford County
- Howard County

Community Colleges
- Anne Arundel
- Harford County
- Howard County

Cities
- Annapolis
- Aberdeen
- Bowie

Arts Institutions
- Baltimore Museum of Art
- Walters Art Gallery

Authorities
- Baltimore City Housing
- Baltimore County Revenue

Libraries
- Baltimore County
We don’t like this picture! Our public institutions should not be supporting the incinerator.
We contacted Baltimore City Schools to learn more.

We obtained the contract between the City Schools and the incinerator. We learned that Energy Answers has until spring of 2015 to start producing power. At that point, the schools and the other entities can leave the contract without penalty.
Students, parents and teachers came unified to present to the School Board

We informed the Board about the issue, presented the facts, and asked them to pledge to leave their contract with the incinerator in spring 2015.
Creativity and Leadership

https://vimeo.com/96915571
Baltimore City school board member Cheryl Casciani says, “Energy Answers, when you are standing at the site, unless I was missing something, there’s no evidence of construction.” Then, Casciani recalls, “the day after our site visit, the articles appeared” in the press about EA’s failure to purchase the emission offsets, prompting her to think, “what’s up with Energy Answers missing all these deadlines? What does it mean?”(Baltimore City Paper July 2014)
Incinerator ordered to stop construction… temporarily

Energy Answers violated the Federal Clean Air Act. They failed to buy tons of pollution offsets and face $8 million in fines.
EA plans to continue... and so do we!
People from across Maryland are joining in our call to Stop the Incinerator!

Together we are reaching out to the entities that would be buying energy from the incinerator. Our goal is that public institutions will pledge to opt out in spring of 2015 when the contracts run out.