



Although recycling is encouraged there is much mixed waste still produced. Quite a lot of this is incinerated (burnt), generating energy for heating and electricity.

Climate change CO ₂ e per kWh	415 grams 166 grams	415g is for electricity from mixed waste that is 60% biomass (wood, paper, food and garden waste etc.), and 40% non-biomass (plastics etc.). 166g is for heat.
Impact on nature	Low/Very low	Incinerators fairly compact, potentially polluting emissions mostly dealt with when well run. Impact depends on how else waste would be dealt with.
Risks	Low	Could discourage recycling and waste resources if rubbish unsorted and burnt to keep incinerators fired up. Some health risks from chimney gases.
Visual impact	Low	Incinerators are compact relative to their output. They need a large number of waste deliveries.
Cost now	Very low	'Waste to energy' incinerators are paid to deal with waste as well as generate heat and electricity.
Cost 20 years	Low/Very low	Waste treatment centres might be paid to generate liquid fuels and materials for "carbon sequestration" instead.
The UK resource	Poor	The total resource is small, and likely to get smaller with more recycling and other treatment systems.
Reliability/flexibility	Very good	An incinerator can reliably and flexibly produce heat and electricity as long as waste is available. Best if mixed waste not stored for days.