

Baroness Sheehan
Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

23 October 2024

Dear Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,

I hope this finds you well. I am writing regarding recent media reports that incineration of waste is now the greatest source of greenhouse gases within UK energy generation.¹

According to analysis by the BBC, nearly half the rubbish produced in UK homes, including increasing amounts of plastic, is now being incinerated – and energy-from-waste plants are now producing the same amount of greenhouse gases per unit of electricity as if they were burning coal.²

We would be grateful if in response to this letter you could set out your response to these questions:

1. What proportion of UK energy comes from Energy from Waste (EfW)?
2. What is the Government's policy on the growth of this sector and its contribution to the UK energy mix?
3. Who is responsible for regulating emissions from the EfW sector?
 - a. What form does that responsibility take?
4. What assessment has the Government made of the sources of waste currently being incinerated?
5. What impact does the EfW sector have on recycling rates and the move towards a circular economy?

¹ [Burning household rubbish now UK's dirtiest form of power, BBC finds - BBC News](#)

² Ibid.



Yours sincerely,

Baroness Sheehan, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee