

## **PETITION**

### **Avoid CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions, avoid import tax on waste**

We ask the Dutch government to waive the intended tax on the incineration of foreign waste. This tax leads to more worldwide CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions, less recycling, less sustainable heat and less jobs.

#### **More CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions**

In the Netherlands an increasing amount of waste is being recycled which has led to spare waste-to-energy capacity to process waste from surrounding countries into heat and electricity. This will be hindered with the intended import tax. This will lead to more landfilling of waste in these countries. And that will lead to more CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions that are much greater than the CO<sub>2</sub>-savings that will be realized in the Netherlands.

Also other European countries are in the process of transitioning to increased rates of recycling. To avoid the unnecessary construction waste-to-energy capacity during this transition period it is European policy that member states should optimally use each other's spare capacity during this transition.

#### **Less recycling**

The proposed sudden termination of waste imports from abroad will have a direct impact on the Dutch waste market. Experience tells us that the reduced demand will lead to lower gate fees for waste-to-energy plants that will make recycling less attractive, and which is contradictory to what the tax is intending. This will also lead to less Dutch waste being recycled and an increase in CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions.

#### **Less sustainable heat**

District heating in the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Arnhem, Alkmaar, Nijmegen, Enschede, Roosendaal and Dordrecht all rely on heat from waste-to-energy plants. In the Dutch Regional Energy Strategies governments consider waste-to-energy plants to be an important heat source. Waste-to-energy plants currently produce 20 PetaJoule of heat, 50% of the goal for 2030 in the Dutch Climate Agreement. It is essential that these heat deliveries are not hindered until the time that more sustainable heat sources have been developed.

#### **Less jobs**

The tax on imported waste will cause the loss of many hundreds of jobs, while the tax will not generate environmental benefits.

Signed:



**Conor Walsh**

On behalf of:

**Irish Waste Management Association**

Date: **1<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

