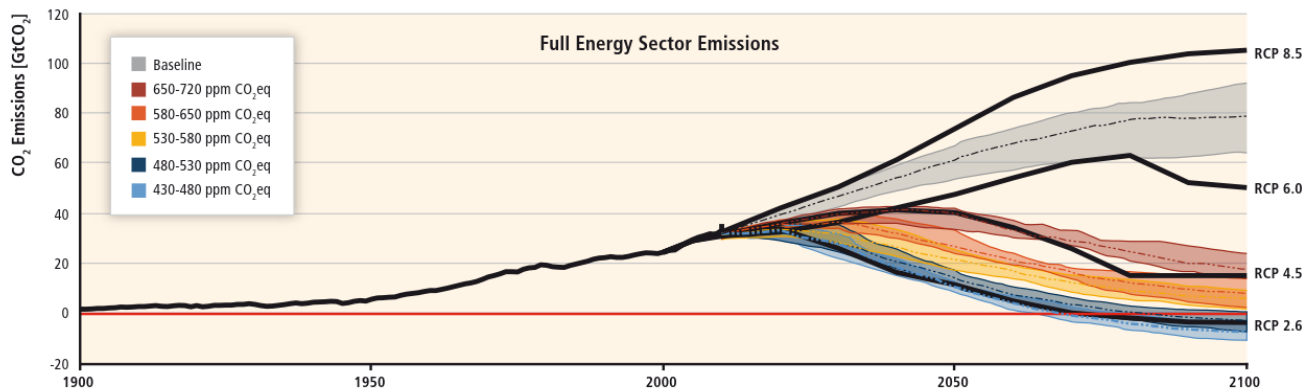


June 25, 2017

To the Membership of the U.S. Conference of Mayors:

We are extremely grateful to the USCOM for considering a resolution to continue meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement with zero-emissions energy. Action at the municipal level is vital to delivering on our climate promises.

However, it was dismaying to learn that the trash incineration industry is lobbying for rejection of the zero-emissions resolution.¹ We thank the energy committee for having approved a clean version that does not include incineration, and strongly urge USCOM to approve only zero-emissions energy as a goal. Waste incinerators depend on burning high-carbon materials for heat content, including fossil fuel-derived plastics, and their low efficiency makes them bigger carbon polluters than coal plants. Incineration is a disproportionately dirty technology that serves as a disincentive for waste reduction and recycling, and it doesn't deserve to be treated as renewable energy.



Global development of annual CO₂ emissions. The blue group of mitigation scenarios constrains temperature rise consistent with the Paris goals, but requires immediate reductions in emissions.²

Climate modeling shows we must immediately reduce emissions if we are to avoid dangerous global temperature increase. Thus, we can't afford to have high-emissions garbage incineration competing with wind, solar and other zero-emissions technologies as we move to a clean energy future.

Thank you for your leadership on climate change. We are all counting on you.

Sincerely,

¹ Kaufman, A.C. "The Trash Incinerator Industry Is Trying To Tank A Massive Renewable-Energy Effort." Huffington Post, June 23, 2017. (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trash-incinerator-renewable-energy_us_594d7fede4b05c37bb767c15)

² From Figure 7.9, IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Edenhofer, O., et al]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.

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