

Get the facts about Energy from Waste

BROMELTON
ENERGY & RESOURCE
CENTRE Powered by CLEANAWAY

We understand that new ways for Queensland to deal with waste can raise questions and misconceptions. Here are some of the key myths we hear about Energy from Waste (EfW) and the facts, based on evidence from the thousands of facilities operating in the USA, Japan, China, the UK and EU:

Myth: Pollutants from EfW facilities cause environment and public health harm

The facts: Modern EfW facilities meet strict standards to protect public health and the environment.

Combustion at over 850°C destroys many potentially harmful compounds, while emission control and flue gas treatment processes remove pollutants. This means 99.9% of what comes out of the stack are gases that occur naturally in our air, including oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water vapour. Air pollution control residue (a solid residue from the gas treatment process) is treated onsite before disposal. Air emissions from the

BERC facility will meet international best practice concentration levels so that ground level concentrations will be within national and Queensland ambient air quality standards. The facility will have continuous, real-time emissions monitoring, automatic shut-down systems and emissions data will be shared publicly on the website and with the Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

We need to change the way we manage waste – we need to recover more, recycle more, reuse more and send less to landfill.

EfW is safe, diverts thousands of tonnes of waste from landfill, recovers valuable resource and generates electricity.

Myth: EfW facilities are just incinerators that burn all our rubbish

The facts: EfW facilities do far more than simply burn waste. They play a key role in moving toward a circular economy by diverting non-recyclable waste from landfill. Through controlled combustion, they convert residual waste into energy that powers homes and businesses. Heat recovered from the process can also be used for heating, while valuable materials like metals are extracted for recycling. Even the remaining incinerator bottom ash aggregate can be reused as a construction material.

Myth: EfW facilities cause odour

The facts: EfW facilities are designed to prevent odour from escaping. Waste is unloaded into a waste bunker within a fully enclosed building. Combustion air is continuously drawn into the building creating negative pressure ensuring that when doors open, air flows inward rather than outward, helping to contain any odours inside the building. The combustion chambers operate at high temperatures that destroy odorous compounds in the combustion air.



Have questions or require translation support?

Phone: 0438 887 569

Email: efw.bromelton@cleanaway.com.au

For more facts about the Bromelton Energy and Resource Centre proposal and EfW visit our website.

Website: www.cleanaway.com.au/location/bromelton-energy-and-resource-centre

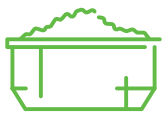
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Myth: EfW competes with recycling

The facts: EfW treats residual waste, the waste in red lid household bins or from businesses that cannot be recycled. It complements recycling and composting organics programs, redirecting waste that would otherwise end up in landfills. Cleanaway operates a range of recycling programs and facilities and will continue to invest in these important initiatives that help move us toward a circular economy. The BERC facility will process 760,000 tonnes of residual waste each year that would have gone to landfill. From this, the BERC will recover 180,700 tonnes of ash and recyclable metals for recycling and reuse.

Myth: we can recycle our way out of the growing waste problem

The facts: Queensland generated approximately 10.25 million tonnes of waste in 2024-2025, a 4.5% increase on the previous year — significantly outpacing the state's 2.3% population growth over the same period. Recovery rates for household municipal solid waste remain low, with less than one-third (about 28.2%) of household rubbish diverted from landfill. This rate has remained below 30% for several years. Targets set in 2019 in the Queensland Government to recover more than 55% of municipal waste and 65% of commercial and industrial waste by 2025 have not been met. With Queensland's waste volumes continuing to grow, landfills under pressure, and recycling rates plateauing, Queensland faces a sustainability and infrastructure challenge. More recycling is needed, especially for Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO), along with more development of markets for recyclable materials, but there will always be residual waste that cannot be composted or recycled. We need to find sustainable alternatives to landfill to recover valuable resources from waste that cannot be recycled.



10.25 million tonnes

of waste generated in Queensland in 2024-2025*



4.33 million tonnes

sent to landfill*



+4.5% increase

from 2023-2024*

Myth: EfW facilities are closing around the world and are no longer a preferred way to deal with waste

The facts: EfW facilities have been in operation around the world for decades. Old plants are closing to make way for new facilities with better technology and better efficiency in places like the London, Paris and Hamburg. There are more than 2,000 EfW facilities in operation today internationally.

*Recycling and waste in Queensland report, Queensland Government



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