

**Observation Report on the Environmental Responsibility of  
428 Household Waste Incineration Plants  
Summary**

In 2015, *The Opinion on Accelerating the Construction of Ecological Civilization* was released, the first time that the ecological civilization was written into a national five-year plan. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress put forward the concept of “ecological civilization construction”, the energy conservation and environmental protection industry has undergone unprecedented development, undertaking an indispensable role in the war against pollution. The waste incineration industry, an extremely important part of the energy conservation and environmental protection industry, attracts even more attention.

Entering into 2019, documents like *Provisions on Administration of the Application of Automatic Monitoring Data for Household Waste Incineration Power Plants (trial)* (consultation paper) stated that waste incineration plants must implement continuous, stable operations. Concerning the occasional “not in my backyard” problem and thorny issues such as the treatment of airborne ash, the general public expect the waste incineration industry to improve their own environmental performance when they contribute to solving the garbage siege. Moreover, the waste incineration industry needs to go beyond environmental compliance and start reducing energy usage and emissions, and extending the environmental management to supply chains.

To motivate the waste incineration industry to undertake more environmental responsibilities on top of information disclosure, Wuhu Ecological and Environmental Protection Volunteer Group (herein referred to as “Wuhu Ecology Center”) and the Institute for Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE) published the *Observation Report on the Environmental Responsibility of 428 Domestic Waste Incineration Plants*.

The authors note in the report that:

1. By September 2019, 38 investors had published the information regarding 163 waste incineration plants via 46 websites including that of the investors and the plants. A closer look shows that 31% of the 163 waste incineration plants had published flue gas emissions data; 14% had published environmental quality information; 29% had published dioxin monitoring data; and 19% had published airborne dust treatment information.
2. Some investors have begun to improve the environmental management of waste incineration plants, with attempts to establish data monitoring of pollutant emissions,

and create communication channels in vigorous response to “the open door policy“, which requires the environmental protection facilities to provide tours to the public.

3. With respect to supply chain management, investors rarely probe this area. Only a very small number of investors like Grandblue, have begun to require its waste incineration plants to provide public explanations regarding previous environmental violations.

On the basis of these observations, the authors suggest that investors in waste incineration industry should take the three steps below:

Step one: Trust the public and disclose all environmental data publicly. Implement “the open door policy“, which requires the environmental protection facilities to provide tours to the public.

Step two: Establish an oversight mechanism on waste incineration plants and strengthen the environmental management. Reduce environmental violations and the subsequent economic losses due to the cancellation of tax reimbursement.

Step three: Map out the supply chain of waste incineration plants and motivate suppliers to elevate environmental performance and control the environmental risks along the supply chain.

We believe that the steps above esp. expanding information disclosure is crucial to controlling environmental risk along the supply chain, building a better brand image and ultimately contributing to the construction of ecological civilization.

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