



# “What place for waste incineration in a circular economy”

“A futureproof EU Waste Framework Directive” workshop  
15:15 – 16:30 Breakout session

By adhering to the waste hierarchy and diverting waste away from landfills, waste incineration has contributed to the reduction of waste-related greenhouse gas emissions within the EU. Yet, within the broader aim of carbon neutrality and a circular economy, its role demands careful examination.

While incineration plants can recover energy from waste and ease landfill pressures, there are concerns that over-reliance may hinder waste reduction- and recycling goals fundamental to a circular economy.

This breakout session will center around the following question: What role remains for waste incineration within a circular economy?

## **Key elements and sub-questions include:**

- Can member states transition directly from landfilling to recycling, thereby bypassing the need for constructing incineration infrastructure?
- Should the principle of proximity be expanded from household waste to include industrial waste?
- The function of waste incineration as a safe sink for substances we aim to eliminate from material loops.
- The potential of incineration plants to achieve climate neutrality versus the risk of lock-ins or waste diversion away from recycling efforts.
- Should the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions from waste incineration be allocated to the incinerators or to the producers of the waste?