

Susan J Sperl

I am a 34 year Near North resident. I am also a lifelong artist, whose ongoing work deals with the plastic/trash issue. My personal library consists of 180 books on the ocean, climate change, plastic and trash. I have led neighborhood street trash cleanups, which included children as young as four who are bringing home the reduce/reuse/recycle message! The money for the HERC ♦ which was meant to be shut down 14 years ago ♦ along with state and federal money, can and must be used to meaningfully address the crisis. Burning trash is NOT the solution, especially given the negative health impacts of the HERC on nearby residents. Many health care professionals have advocated to shut down the burner by 2025. They deal with the issue up close!

I have a proverb on my wall, attributed to the Cree Native American Nation:
"Only when the last tree has died, the last river been poisoned, the last fish been caught, AND THE AIR TOO SICKENING TO BREATHE, we will realize that we cannot eat money."

THAT FUTURE IS HERE!! Sadly, I suspect money to be at the base of resisting a bold plan to address and correct the harm being done by the HERC. The MPCA plan does not give MN any bragging rights ♦ a 5% reduction is too little too late! I too ask that you include a 2025 shutdown date for the HERC in the plan, and show us the leadership we deserve as individuals and community ♦ to help hold producers responsible, and to continue (or begin) our efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle, one that truly addresses our human right to a healthy environment!