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The MPCA should include a specific scenario for the HERC trash burner's near-term closure. MPCA cannot force communities to wait for a system that "does not need to rely" on incinerators to be developed first. It is MPCA's responsibility to support the creation such a system.

If "environmental justice" is going to be more than just rhetoric for the MPCA, this plan must account for the severe health impacts of incinerators and the cumulative impacts of their siting in overburdened communities.

The plan also must be far more transparent. It must account for the toxic ash that incinerators generate. It must stop weaponizing and distorting science to force communities to accept a risk even scientists don't fully understand and are actively debating. It must take precautions when it comes to people's health and lives, and acknowledge real impacts.

Finally, the 20-year waste reduction goal of 5% is unacceptable. Wealthy areas of the metro, the metro overall, and the United States must REDUCE waste and consumption significantly. The wealthy consume and waste far more than the poor. Hyper-consumption drives the climate crisis. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, set a goal of at least 50% waste reduction by 2030 and 75% or more by 2042, as well as 90% diversion by 2042.