

TEACHING GUIDE

Episode 5: Is burning waste China's quick solution to ocean plastics?

[Podcast](#)

[Transcript](#)

Highlights & Recommended Questions

Waste-to-Energy in China (3:12 to 6:43)

- How much of the world's plastic waste does not get recycled? How much of that goes to landfills and how much ends up leaking into natural areas?
- Why have waste-to-energy (incineration) plants taken over in China? What's the current scale/number of plants?

Challenges with Waste-to-Energy (7:19 to 10:11)

- Why is sorting your waste important for WTE?
- What are other concerns with WTE?

Is WTE a Necessary Part of Waste Management? (10:25 to 13:41)

- When is WTE a good solution? When is it not?

Discussion Prompts

- Do you think WTE is a necessary solution?
- How do we address the sorting concerns that make WTE less efficient?
- How do mitigate the potential negative effects of WTE plants?
- How might the differences between Asia and the western world impact waste management measures and progress?

Further Reading & Listening

- [Waste-to-Energy in China](#) (slideshow, Zhejiang University, 2017)
- [China's Renewable Energy Goals by 2050](#) (article, Yang et. al, 2016)
- [Trends in Solid Waste Management](#) (feature, World Bank, 2018)

Organisations Taking Action

- [Ocean Recovery Alliance](#)
- [Friends of Nature](#)
- [WuHu Ecology Center](#)
- [Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council](#)
- [Zero Waste Alliance](#)

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