

## **Activity 2.3: Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) Debate**

### **Situation:**

You either work or live in Trashville, a new and growing city. For the last 5 years, you have been sending your garbage to a landfill in a neighboring city. This landfill has almost reached its capacity, and therefore Trashville city council has proposed building an incinerator to dispose of the city's garbage. This is the issue that is up for debate at today's meeting. Something must be done with the garbage; a decision must be made.

### **Directions:**

Each of you will be randomly assigned a group of Trashville citizens to represent at the meeting. Read over the Trashville Background Information provided. Then meet with your group and discuss your position on building the new incinerator. Use the information from your role card, land use map, and knowledge of incinerating garbage to give an effective argument. Remember that an effective argument looks at both pros and cons of the situation. At the end of the meeting, every individual will vote to determine whether the incinerator will be built or not. Other proposals made during the debate will also be voted on.

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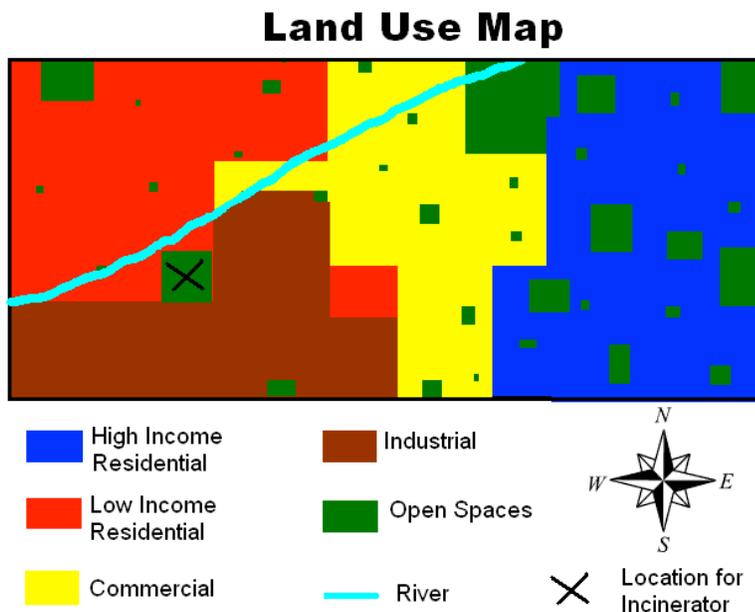
## Trashville Background Information

Trashville is a new and growing city. There is a high population density concentrated on opposite ends of the city in the residential zones. More people live in the low income residential area than in the high income residential area. There are two main areas where people work in Trashville. The commercial zone offers many employment opportunities as it has a very popular shopping area. This is the main source of income for the city. The stores are also the main tourist attraction bringing in visitors. Another work area is in the industrial zone. The many factories in this zone employ the largest amount of people in the city.

There are many parks in Trashville. These parks have large tree populations. They also are the habitat for many species of small mammals and birds. A river runs diagonally through the city, flowing South West to North East. This river has an abundance of fish which are sold in the local fish market. The river cuts through the largest park providing a nutrient rich habitat where deer live naturally; it is the only area in the entire city where these deer still inhabit.

Garbage produced in Trashville is consistent with other city averages. The factories in the industrial zone produce the most amount of garbage. Currently, the city of Trashville has to pay the neighboring town a fee to dispose of the garbage, and pay for extra transportation costs. Since there are extra fees involved in the current garbage disposal, the town has to account for these costs by charging the residents a Garbage Tax.

As a new and growing city, Trashville has the resources and the support to use new technology. A city newspaper wrote a detailed article informing the residents and employees about the advantages and disadvantages of the incinerator. Now that everyone understands the issue, a special meeting will be held for the Trashville citizens to voice their opinions.



**Role Cards**  
(A class of 24)

**Name: Taylor Dosey**  
**Role: City Council Member**

**Opinion: I was responsible for choosing the location of the incinerator. The incineration waste disposal method will take up the least amount of space in the city. This prime location already has transportation access, so no new roads will have to take up more land.**

**Name: Hilary Linton**  
**Role: City Council Member**

**Opinion: I am the financial director for the city. Although building the incinerator will be costly, in the long run it will save us money. We will no longer need to pay our neighbors to dispose our garbage and pay the extra transportation costs.**

**Name: Dwayne Johnson**  
**Role: City Council Member**

**Opinion: It was my idea to keep garbage disposal in our own city. With our own system we will have a more sustainable city. As our city grows we will not have to worry about problems of increasing garbage if we have an incinerator.**

**Name: Julia Moder**  
**Role: City Council Member**

**Opinion: I want to ensure that there are plenty of opportunities for employment in the city. Building an incinerator will create many more job opportunities. This will help keep income in the city and improve the economy.**

**Name: Alicia More**  
**Role: High Income Resident**

**Opinion: I am in favor of building the incinerator. If we dispose of our own garbage locally then we will no longer have to pay the Garbage Tax. As the cost of living continues to increase any tax break is beneficial to the residents.**

**Name: Derek Williams**  
**Role: High Income Resident**

**Opinion: I heard that the incinerator might help lower the deer population. They are starting to take over my back yard and feast on my prize winning garden! The deer need to be put into check, so I want to build the incinerator.**

**Name: Brittney Shield**  
**Role: Real Estate Agent**

**Opinion: Having a state of the art incinerator will help put Trashville on the map. Having our own garbage disposal system leaves plenty of room for a growing population. Taxes will go down and more people will buy houses.**

**Name: John Lee**  
**Role: High Income Resident**

**Opinion: I say build the incinerator; it is not going to be too close to my house. I just don't want garbage to pile up in the streets. You won't even notice it because it will just be a building, not like a huge pile of trash in the city.**

**Name: Homer Sampson**  
**Role: Factory Manager**

**Opinion: My textile factory produces the highest volume of garbage in the city. All of the garbage is completely flammable but takes many years to decompose. Building the incinerator would be a perfect solution to the garbage problem.**

**Name: Becky Allen**  
**Role: Incinerator Representative**

**Opinion: An incinerator would be a great addition to this city. It is an efficient way of disposing high volume garbage. It would create many job opportunities in the city. It will also blend into the surrounding development.**

**Name: Danielle Ross**  
**Role: Factory Employee**

**Opinion: I want them to build the incinerator. If we don't choose a disposal method that can be implemented fast then the managers might have to cut back on production. If production slows than I might lose my job.**

**Name: Jimmy Ray**  
**Role: Factory Manager**

**Opinion: I manage a factory real close to the proposed location of the incinerator. Right now I pay extra transportation costs because we produce so much garbage. The incinerator would save me a lot of money.**

**Name: Kanye East**  
**Role: Environmentalist**

**Opinion: The incinerator is too close to the river. Excess heat and garbage could get into the river and disrupt ecosystems. The fish, deer, and mammal populations depend on the river to survive, and the pollution could cause species depletion.**

**Name: Jackie Moss**  
**Role: Environmentalist**

**Opinion: The incinerator does not solve the garbage disposal problems in the city. Ashes still need to be disposed of and some garbage is not safe to burn. If we build the incinerator we will just need additional methods of disposal.**

**Name: Elizabeth Burton**  
**Role: Environmentalist**

**Opinion: Incineration is not the best method of garbage disposal for our city. It will release pollution into the air such as the nitrates that result from burning organic matter. This will have consequences, including acid rain.**

**Name: Chris Nunez**  
**Role: Environmentalist**

**Opinion: The incinerator is taking up valuable green space in the city. This space is the home to small mammals and many birds. The pollution associated with the incinerator will negatively impact the habitats and animals.**

**Name: Billy Wonka**  
**Role: Low Income Resident**

**Opinion: I do not want to have an incinerator in my neighborhood. The incinerator will be making noise all night long, and I have to be up early for work. It will also stink up the place with all that garbage coming in.**

**Name: Eva Lopez**  
**Role: Low Income Resident**

**Opinion: Building an incinerator will make traffic so much worse in my neighborhood. It is already crowded and now garbage trucks will be taking up the entire road. Increased traffic will cause more accidents and delays to work.**

**Name: Angela Curtis**  
**Role: Real Estate Agent**

**Opinion: It is going to be very difficult to sell apartments next to an incinerator. Building the incinerator will be costly and will come from the residents' pockets. No one is going to want to live near expensive garbage.**

**Name: Lenny James**  
**Role: Low Income Resident**

**Opinion: Building the incinerator is a bad idea. I can barely pay for food and now my insurance is going to increase. I do not produce enough garbage to be slammed by the extra costs.**

**Name: Damian Smith**  
**Role: Low Income Resident**

**Opinion: There are too many health risks to introduce an incinerator into the city. The burning of garbage can produce toxins that we will inhale without realizing. I have two young kids and I do not want to put them in danger.**

**Name: Melanie Wang**  
**Role: Store Owner**

**Opinion: The incinerator will be bad for business. No one will want to buy more stuff next to a garbage disposal site. People will go to neighboring towns to shop. I will lose money and will have to close down my store.**

**Name: Erik Fredricks**  
**Role: Fish Market Owner**

**Opinion: I make my living by selling fish from the Trashville River. Not only could the incinerator kill off the fish but eating these fish could make people sick. The incinerator will harm my business and family.**

**Name: Wendy Rich**  
**Role: Travel Agent**

**Opinion: The shopping area is the biggest tourist attraction to the city. Building the incinerator will make our city seem dirty and people won't want to come. Without money being spent in the stores the economy will suffer.**