Newsletter

Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre *[ARC]*

27 February 2026

We are pleased to share the next edition of the Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre project newsletter, bringing you the latest updates on the progress and upcoming milestones of the Woodlawn ARC Project.

Project timeline update

We are continuing to closely follow the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)'s review of the Energy from Waste regulatory framework. The project team is committed to ensuring all our project documentation meets the necessary regulatory requirements and will assess any implications for our reports once the EPA's review is complete.

Inquiry into EfW

In late 2025, a Select Committee was formed to conduct an Inquiry into Proposed Energy from Waste Facilities in NSW. In reviewing the submissions to this enquiry, we noticed that certain studies were repeatedly referenced by those who oppose energy from waste. We read these studies ourselves to understand the claims in more detail and found many key elements of these studies and their findings had not been included in the submissions.. In this newsletter and future ones, we'll look at some of the most highly cited studies and provide the full context that has been missing.

One of the most frequently cited studies is the non peer reviewed study by advocacy group NGO Toxicowatch. This study attributed high dioxin levels in backyard eggs, pine needles, and leaves found in a suburb near Paris to pollution from the nearby Ivry XIII EfW plant (2021). These findings were highly publicised, which prompted the government Île-de-France Regional Health Agency (ARS) to investigate the claims focusing on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), dioxins, furans, and polychlorinated biphenyls, to see if there was a risk to human health from eating backyard and locally farmed eggs.

Here's what they found:

- The Ivry XIII plant is located in an area that has been a major industrial zone for over 100 years - long before the plant was built.

- The study recommended against consuming backyard eggs from anywhere across the 410 municipalities in the Paris urban area due to general background pollution.
- Urban soils were globally contaminated by POPs, regardless of proximity to incinerators.
- There is no causal link between proximity to EfW plants and the concentration of POPs in soils or eggs. In some cases, sample sites close to EfW plants showed lower levels of POPs than more distant sites.
- The presence of POPs in backyard eggs is a widespread environmental issue, caused by decades of historical and ongoing emissions in urban environments.

In short, the Ivry-sur-Seine region was historically a major hub for industry, with multiple textile and metallurgy factories utilising the existing rail lines and Seine river for transport. While most of these factories have now ceased operations, the pollution left by these centuries-old industries remains.

The French Government's Ministry of Health, **concluded there was no scientifically demonstrated causal link between EfW incinerators and POPs found in domestic eggs and urban soils**[1] when there are so many other pollution sources in the environment.

Ask us anything!

We have launched our new **Ask Us Anything - Energy from Waste Campaign** to help answer your questions. We understand this project raises questions, and we're committed to providing transparent information.

Whatever you want to know, our experts are here to help. Submit your questions through our website and we'll provide clear, factual answers.

Ask us anything here: www.anz.veolia.com/en-au/newsroom/newsroom/ask-us-anything-energy-waste

What's coming up?

[1] Agence Régionale de Santé, 2025, Contamination of domestic eggs with persistent organic pollutants: results and recommendations from a poultry farm study

We will continue to keep communicating with the community. As part of this, we will have a stall at the Goulburn Show in front of the Ross Whittaker Basketball pavilion, next to the ramp; and at the Yass Show along the Heritage Walk, where you can meet our people and ask questions. The dates are:

Goulburn Show: 7 March 2026. 9am - 5pm Goulburn Recreation Area Showground

Yass Show: 21 March 2026. 8am - 5pm Yass Showground

Additional engagement activities are being planned and we will announce these soon.

For more information

For further details on our upcoming engagements, FAQs and resources related to the project, please visit the Woodlawn ARC Project webpage.

Get in touch

Your feedback, questions, and ideas are important to us. Please feel free to reach out to us via email at thearc@veolia.com with any inquiries or feedback you may have.