

A Slap on the Wrist & a Pat on the Back: NJ Incinerators Rewarded for Bad Behavior

Incinerators have gotten nearly \$160 million under New Jersey's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) under the guise that they are "clean" energy. They are anything but.



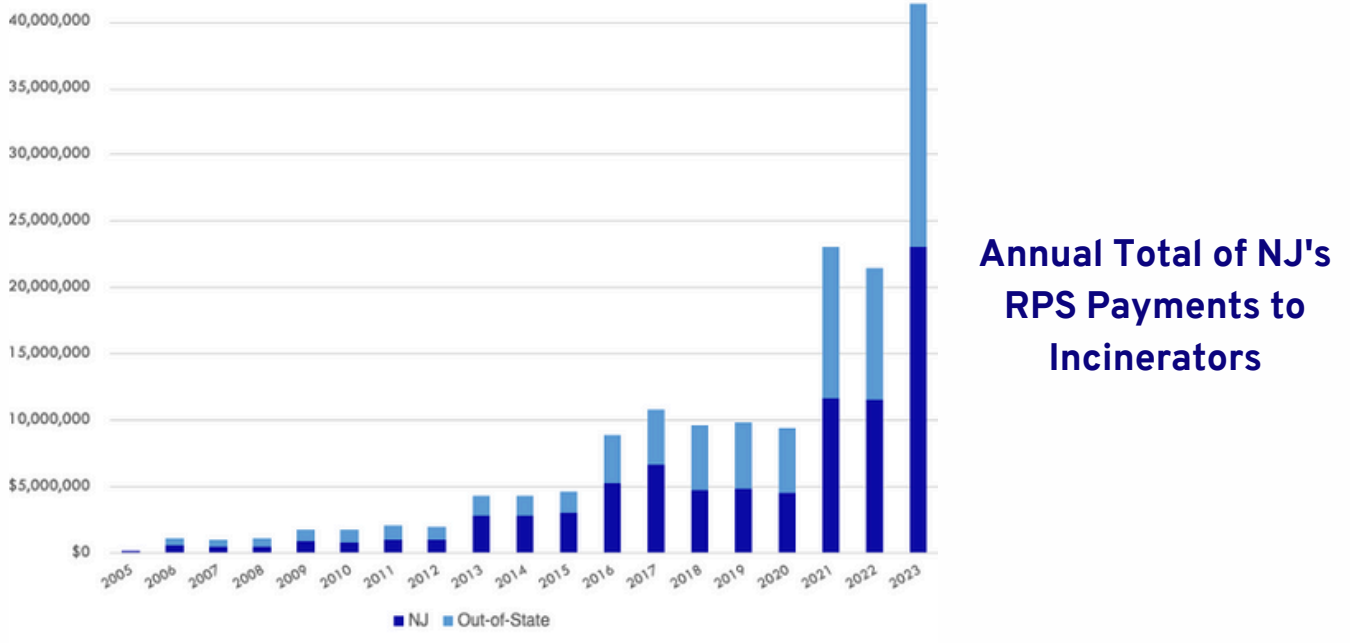
As the following graphs show, New Jersey's incinerators emit more pollution than any other facility on the state's grid today. This pollution is concentrated in EJ communities. Incinerators emit lots of pollution even in years with short total permit violation time.

So reducing payments to incinerator by the percentage of permit violation time, as the current version of the Clean Energy Act of 2024 would do, is not the answer. This will barely put a dent in millions of unwarranted "clean" energy money they get. Instead, incinerators should be totally disqualified for any substantive permit violation.

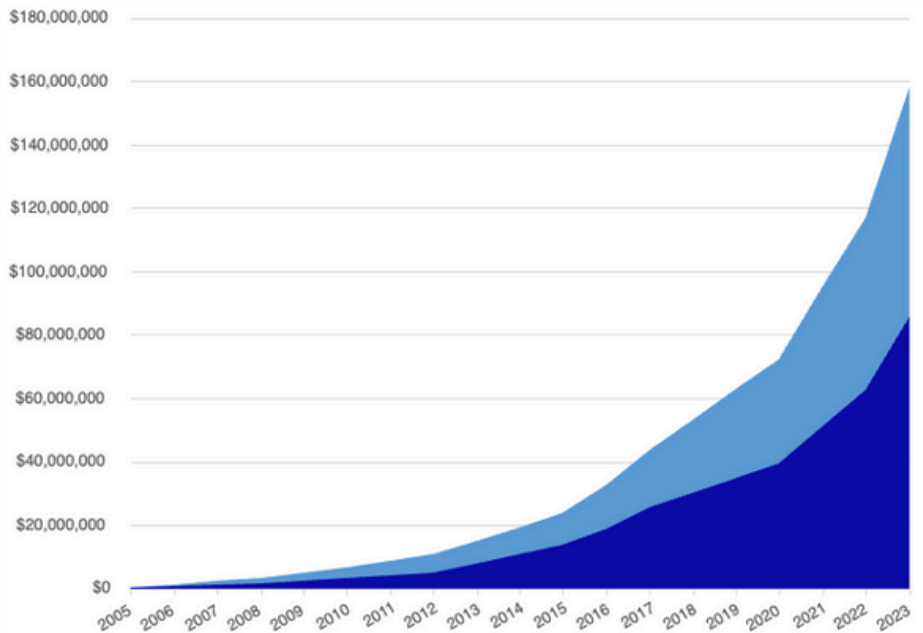


Incinerators have gotten nearly \$160 million from New Jersey utilities and ratepayers under the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Costs skyrocketed after the RPS was amended in 2018 to require 2.5% of energy to come from Class II sources (incinerators and small hydropower) only, instead of all possible RPS sources.

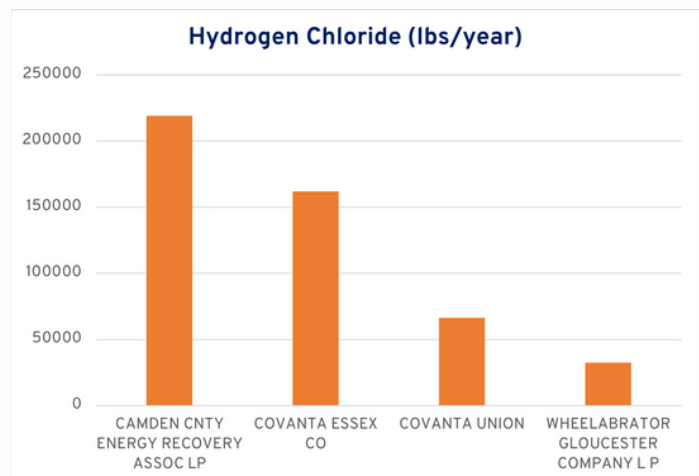
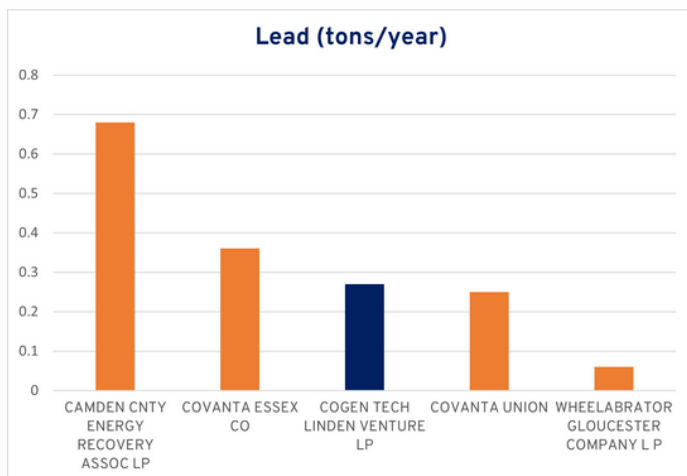
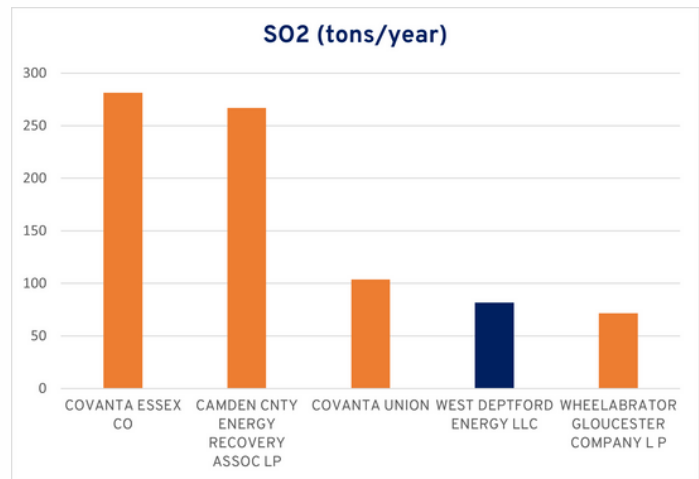
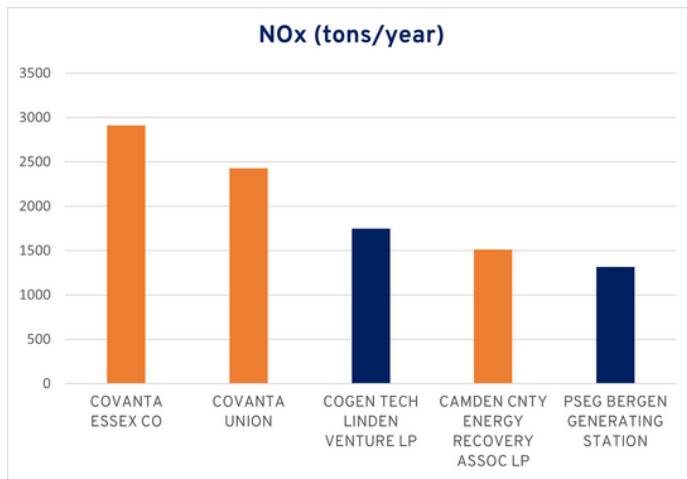
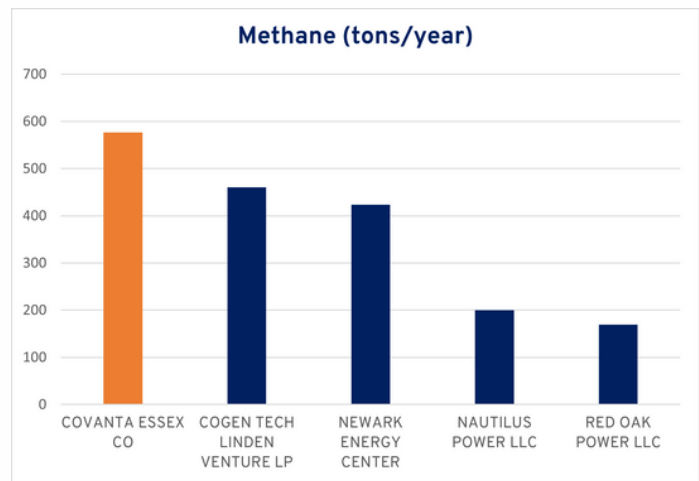
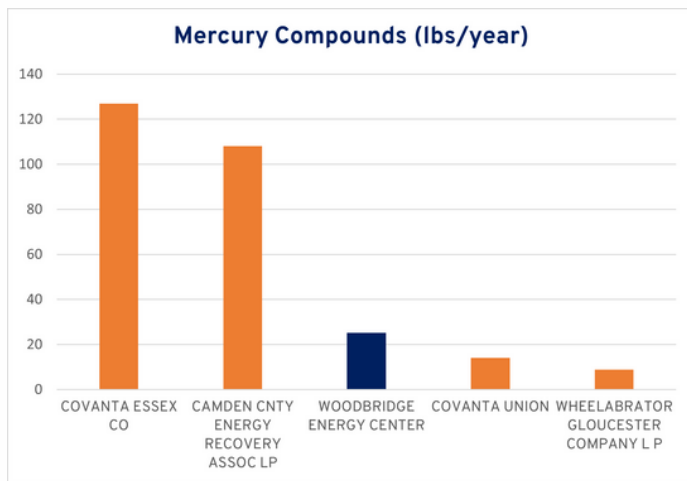


Cumulative Total of NJ's RPS Payments to Incinerators

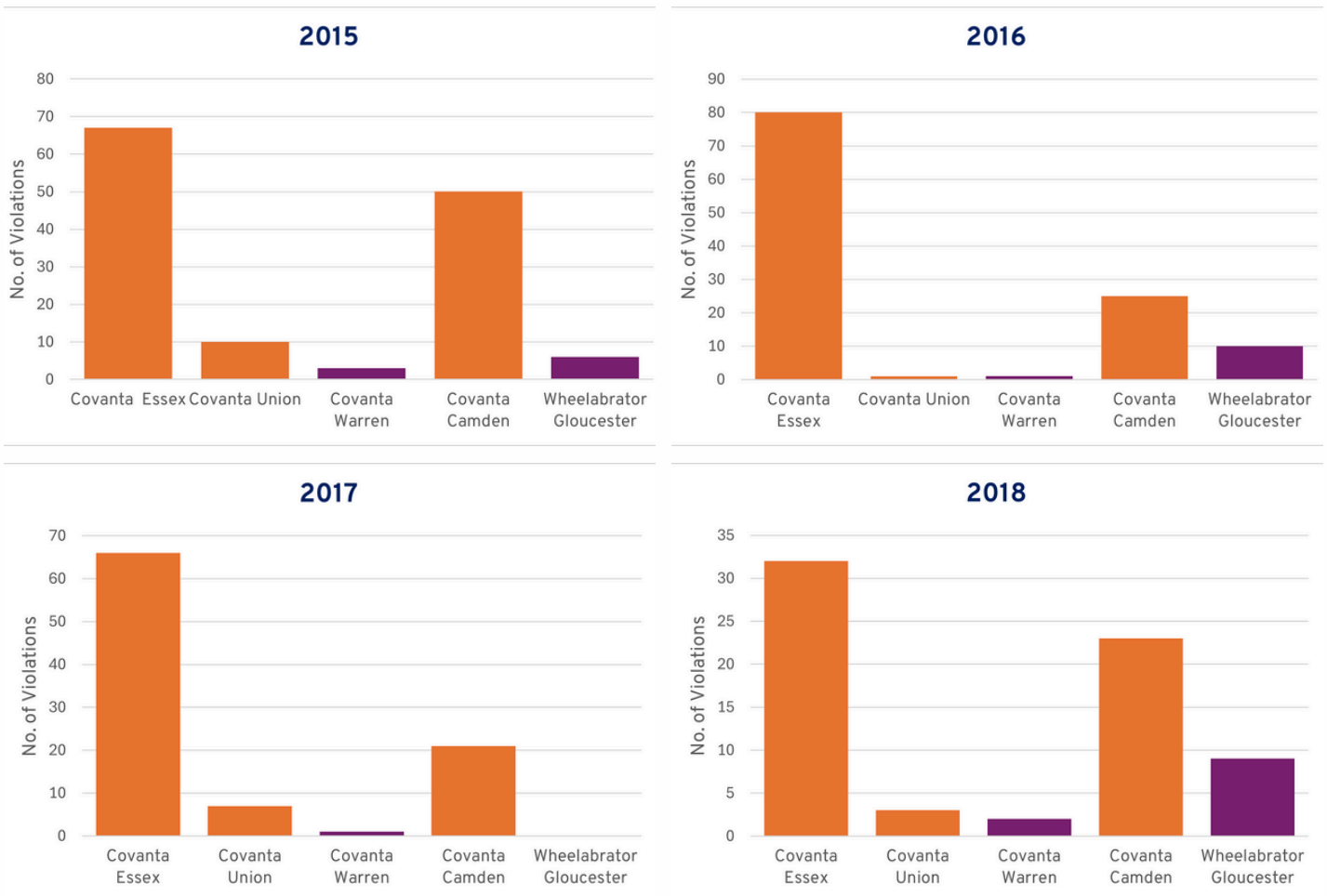


In New Jersey, incinerators emit more pollution than gas plants and other electricity generators.

Of all the current electricity generating facilities on New Jersey's grid, incinerators (in orange below) were most of if not all of the top five emitters of many different pollutants between 2015 and 2018.



Incinerators in Environmental Justice Communities have more permit violations than other incinerators.

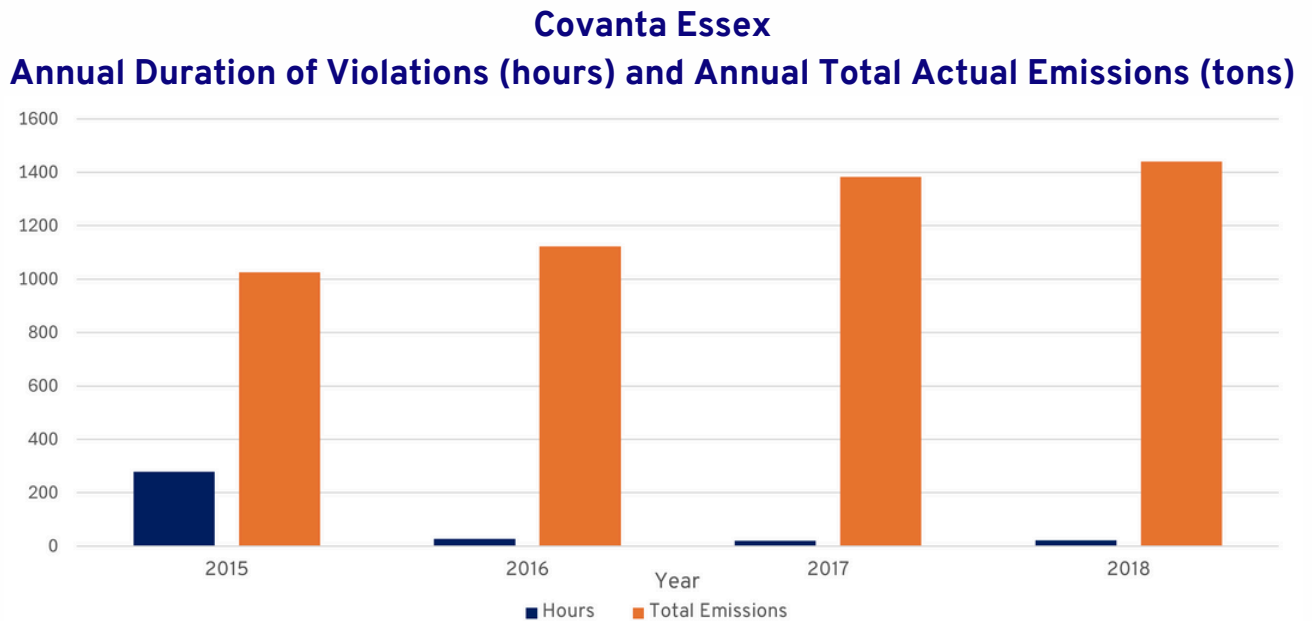


Nearly every year, incinerators in New Jersey's EJ communities (in orange) have more permit violations than the other New Jersey incinerators (in purple). Over half a million people live within three miles of these EJ incinerators, populations that are between 50% and 77% people of color.



NJ incinerator subsidies also affect EJ communities across state lines. Major polluters like the Covanta facility in Chester, Pennsylvania can receive money from NJ's RPS program too.

Incinerators emit thousands of tons of pollution per year, even in years with a relatively short duration of permit exceedances.



Duration of permit violations is not a good proxy for emission impact. Even as duration of emission violations reduced 92% from 2015 to 2018, Covanta Essex's total actual emissions (tons) increased 40%.

To learn more and get involved visit the NJ Dirty Secret site at the QR code below.



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