

# Fact Sheet

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## Final Rule: Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Large Municipal Waste Combustors

### Summary of Action

- On March 5, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to strengthen emission standards under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for Large Municipal Waste Combustors (LMWCs) by requiring facilities to implement cost-effective, proven technology for emission control.
- The standards will apply to the nation's 57 LMWC facilities which comprise of a total of 152 units. Each unit has the capacity to combust more than 250 tons per day of municipal solid waste.
- EPA estimates that the final rule will reduce the levels of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen chloride, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, lead, cadmium, mercury, opacity, and dioxins/furans released when burning waste in large incinerators by 3,269 tons per year.

### Key Elements

- This action will help provide clean air for all Americans by:
  - Revising all emission limits for existing municipal solid waste incinerators, except for carbon monoxide limits for two subcategories of combustors and nitrogen oxide limits for subcategories of combustors for new municipal solid waste incinerators.
  - Revising nitrogen oxides emission limits for new LMWCs according to CAA section 129(a)(5)'s "five-year review" requirement.
  - Removing exemptions and exclusions for startup, shutdown, and malfunction for all LMWC facilities.
  - Adding provisions for electronic reporting of certain notifications and reports for LMWC facilities.
  - Revising recordkeeping requirements for LMWC facilities.
  - Removing of CAA title V permitting requirements, in certain cases, for certain air curtain incinerators that exclusively combust yard waste, wood waste, and clean lumber.

### Economic Impacts

- EPA's economic analysis for the final rule estimates costs to the LMWC industry overall for the time period 2030-2049 to be approximately \$210 million when discounted at a seven percent discount rate. The annual costs are expected to be \$28 million when discounted at a seven percent discount rate. All costs are in 2024 dollars, discounted to 2025.
- EPA expects no impacts to municipalities with a population of less than 50,000 people, and none of the 57 facilities covered under this final rule are categorized as small, based on the Small Business Administration's definition.

### Background

- EPA issues LMWC standards under CAA section 129, which requires EPA to develop standards for solid waste combustion based on the application of Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT).
- EPA bases these standards on emission levels achieved by the best controlled and lower emitting sources.

- The CAA requires EPA every five years to review and revise the standards, if necessary, to account for developments in practices, processes, or control technologies for reducing air pollution.
- The proposal for this action was published on January 23, 2024, and EPA held a public hearing on February 7, 2024. The comment period for the proposal closed on March 25, 2024, but was subsequently reopened on January 8, 2025. The comment period for the proposal closed on May 30, 2025.
- EPA last amended these requirements on May 10, 2006.

### **More Information**

- Interested parties can download a copy of the final rule notice from EPA’s website at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/large-municipal-waste-combustors-lmwc-new-source-performance>.
- EPA’s action and other background information are also available electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0183-0001>, EPA’s electronic public docket and comment system.