

THE PROBLEMS OF UNRECYCLED WASTE

- In **landfill**, the organic material in nappies is problematic because it is biodegradable rather than being inert, giving off methane, an inflammable gas which is one of the biggest generators of climate change. The other big problem of landfill is that it has to occupy increasing areas of land because the mixture of waste piles up rather than disappearing (a tampon can take six months to decompose and the plastic parts of a nappy more than 200 years).¹ Finding land for siting landfill is a big social problem and a source of conflict.
- The biggest disadvantage of **incinerators** is that, by burning organic and plastic materials together, they generate highly toxic gases (organochlorates, dioxins, etc). They also contribute to climate change.

It must be said that, at the moment, the disposable nappy industry takes no responsibility for the large volume of waste that its products become, nor does it finance its management.

¹ Ignasi Puig: *Polítiques locals per a la reducció dels residus municipals*. Pi i Sunyer Foundation - Barcelona Provincial Council, 2006 (in print).