Tourism is a wonderful aspect of our increasingly open world – allowing people to see and experience cultures and places that enriches their lives and contributes to deeper understanding and care for the places visited. For destination communities, tourism can be critical to the local economy.

As a travel agent, you understand this. Yours is an industry centered around creating experiences that benefit both your clients and communities to which they travel. This kind of important, people-centered work is based on the trust your clients place in you to book them safe, fun holidays.

Unfortunately, if you’re booking them on one of Carnival Corporation’s ten global cruise brands, you could be putting their health at risk without knowing it. That is because Carnival fuels most of its ships with the cheapest, dirtiest fossil fuel available, heavy fuel oil.

When burned, heavy fuel oil releases enormous amounts of toxins, heavy metals, greenhouse gases, and dangerous particulate matter. This threatens human health and the health of the planet. Some studies attribute up to 400,000 annual deaths from lung and cardiovascular disease to ship engine exhaust! Researchers also attributed a staggering 14 million childhood asthma cases to acute exposure to ship exhaust every year.

Heavy fuel oil:

Sometimes called residual oil, heavy fuel oil is the bottom-of-the-barrel, tar-like sludge waste that is left over after other petroleum products are made from crude. It is so dirty that on land, heavy fuel oil is classified as hazardous waste.

The pollutants found in heavy fuel oil exhaust have well-documented health risks, especially for those who may be more vulnerable: the elderly, those with cardiovascular diseases, children, and pregnant women. Those concerns are grave enough that the British Heart Foundation recently issued guidance for potential cruise ship passengers, warning against standing downwind of the funnels.

“Our research shows that even short-term exposure to air pollution – just one or two hours – can have a lasting, negative impact on the heart and circulation … If you are worried about your health and are travelling on a cruise ship, it is best to try and minimise your exposure to air pollution by avoiding the areas near or downwind of the engine funnels …”

— Philippa Hobson, Senior Cardiac Nurse
The British Heart Foundation

THE BOTTOM LINE IS SIMPLE:
Carnival cannot be the environmental and health leader it envisions itself to be while its ships are acting as glorified hazardous waste incinerators for the world’s oil refineries.
Carnival can switch to cleaner fuels today. It would appear that the only reason it has not is because ultra-dirty heavy fuel oil is dirt cheap.

Carnival has not taken action to address the concerns of over 104,000 people who recently demanded they stop using heavy fuel oil and install diesel particulate filters on their ships.

They even went so far as to dismiss Arctic Indigenous leadership – those on the frontlines of climate change and increasing ship traffic – as “misguided.” These were no lone voices, either. The Inuit Circumpolar Council – representing Indigenous Peoples in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka (Russia) – as well as the Alaska Federation of Natives have both issued formal declarations and resolutions calling for a phaseout of harmful, risky heavy fuel oil in their region.

But, they will listen to travel agents!

To protect passengers and the beautiful places and communities they visit, Carnival needs to:

• Switch all of the cruise ships in their global fleet to low-sulfur diesel fuel.

• Further, reduce particulate matter pollution on all Carnival Corp. ships by installing diesel particulate filters on all vessels in their global fleet.

• Take the lead in developing and implementing clean shipping technologies that help power cruise ships without fossil fuels completely!

To learn more about how you can help, please visit: CleanupCarnival.com/CruiseWorld