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ENERGY FROM WASTE

Viewpoint



Welcome to our first dedicated energy recovery supplement, in which we take a closer look at that well-worn phrase – public engagement.

The reason the term is so over-used is because it is a perennial issue, and still the biggest barrier facing our industry when it comes to getting new infrastructure off the ground.

In a carbon-conscious world, at a time when waste is making national headlines like never before, it is crucial that the issues surrounding energy recovery are communicated both effectively and convincingly to a wider audience.

Campaign groups, as you've probably noticed, are quite good at it. Perhaps dangerously so, as their arguments are often emotional and misleading. But their concerns are not unfounded, and do carry some weight. For this reason, they shouldn't be dismissed out of hand.

What the industry lacks is a united voice. It also lacks a compelling voice. The public, and media, are often seduced by a good PR exercise – just take those Greenpeace stunts. If a little imagination was applied to public consultation exercises it could make all the difference.

Waste isn't sexy, but it could be. There are energy recovery facilities out there which are architectural models of excellence – a world away from the 'dirty stack' eyesores of the 1970s. But before you turn to aesthetics, you have to present your case. And get it right.

Maxine Perella, Editor



Energy team: Paul Danks, Chris Cox and Peter Corris

New Earth launches renewable energy arm

New Earth Solutions has launched a renewable energy business. The move is in response to the emerging power supply markets and economic incentives for the growth of renewable energy in the UK.

The company says the use of waste-derived feedstock for green energy power plants, and direct heating supply schemes, will complement its network of waste treatment activities.

Chris Cox has joined the company to head up the new

energy venture. Cox has worked in the waste management industry for more than 20 years.

He said: "I am excited to be joining a dynamic organisation that is at the forefront of the renewable sector and is pursuing new ways to extract value from waste."

Cox is joined by Peter Corris, as technical director, and Paul Danks, as business development director. The move is the latest phase of New Earth's growth under chairman Bill Riddle.

German giant sets foot in UK

German energy-from-waste (EfW) firm MVV Umwelt is looking to enter the UK market as part of its expansion plans.

The company is the third largest in Germany's EfW sector, working with 25 municipalities and districts in five federal states to manage and dispose of the waste of more than 4.3M people across the country.

Its flagship plant, at Leuna in eastern Germany, has been expanded. Together with other facilities, such as those at Mannheim and Offenbach, MVV now has the capacity to deal with 1.6M tpa of waste. MVV's three plants have established CHP and district heating off-takes, enabling the company to bring experience to the UK.

The company will be known in the UK as MVV Environment, and will be headed up by newly appointed managing director Paul Carey.

MVV says its focus will be to develop a UK-based outfit that can grow through PFI projects, acquisitions and merchant plant, sharing best practice with its German parent.

Biffa bags £1B MBT contract

Biffa has been announced as the preferred bidder for a £1B waste treatment and disposal contract with West Sussex County Council.

The 25-year deal will see Biffa develop a MBT facility to recover value from 300,000tpa of residual household waste.

About 31% of the waste will be organic material – this will be treated through anaerobic digestion, which will create a compost-like output and fuel gases.

Green light for Surrey

Surrey County Council's planning and regulatory committee has approved Surrey Waste Management's proposal to develop an energy-from-waste facility at Clockhouse Brickworks, Capel in Surrey.

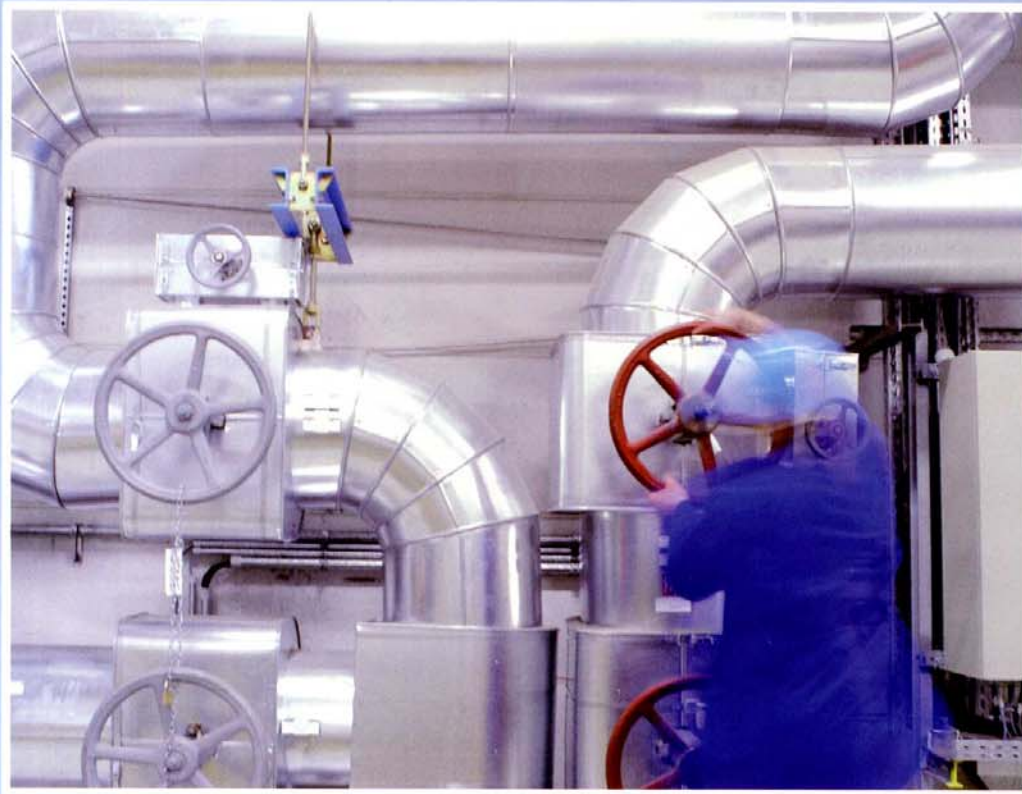
The facility will take 110,000tpa of residual household waste and will generate 8MW of electricity, equivalent to the needs of 8,000 homes.

Commenting on the outcome of the planning committee, Sean Trotter, general manager of Surrey Waste Management, said: "This decision is an



important step forward for our proposal to develop an energy-from-waste facility at Capel. Recovering energy-from-waste represents the best environmental option for treating the county's residual household waste.

Surrey Waste Management is a subsidiary of SITA UK.



Energy is our resource – waste management our expertise

► As an operator of decentralized, state-of-the-art energy from waste facilities with an annual total capacity of 1.2 million tons, MVV Umwelt is among the market leaders in the field of thermal waste treatment in Germany.

At MVV Umwelt's energy from waste facilities, refuse from approx. 4.3 million residents is treated safely and efficiently. In addition, we operate three plants for converting biomass and scrap wood into electricity, with an overall capacity of 400,000 tons.

Due to our years of experience in planning, construction and operation of energy from waste plants, we are able to offer our customers reliable and cost-effective waste disposal services. In doing so, we help the environment in two ways; by treating waste otherwise destined for disposal and by generating electricity and thermal energy, so displacing fossil fuels.

We are now working in the United Kingdom, with the intention of making a difference here.

To find out how, please contact us on **07768 842 715** or contact paul.carey@mvvuk.co.uk

Umwelt you ask? It means Environment of course!

