

Biffa Press Release

30/06/2010

Biffa signs 25 year waste treatment deal with West Sussex County Council

Biffa today announced that it has signed a 25-year contract with West Sussex County Council to treat the County's residual municipal waste using the latest Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) technology.

The £1 billion plus deal will see Biffa construct an MBT facility next to its Brookhurst Wood landfill site near Horsham, in the north of the County. The facility will divert up to 80% of the residual waste from landfill and will save the Council around £300 million over the life of the Contract. It will also significantly reduce the carbon footprint of household waste management in the County.

The contract was financed under prudential borrowing and will create up to 80 new jobs in West Sussex.

David Savory, Biffa's Environment and External Affairs Director, said:

"Biffa is delighted to embark upon this 25 year partnership with West Sussex County Council to help achieve its ambition to be an innovator in recycling and resource management. We will begin work on the MBT facility this summer and when operational in 2013 the facility will divert up to 80% of West Sussex's residual waste away from landfill and use it as a resource to produce renewable energy."

The MBT facility, which received planning consent in April 2010, comprises an integrated mechanical sorting and anaerobic digestion plant, and a visitor centre. The facility will use Haase and Eggersmann technology to treat up to 327,000 tonnes per year of residual municipal and commercial waste from in and around West Sussex. M+W UK Ltd has been selected as the EPC contractor to build the new facility at Brookhurst Wood.

Biffa will treat the mechanically separated biodegradable fraction using anaerobic digestion technology. The resultant biogas will initially be used to generate renewable energy and may in the future be harnessed to produce fuel for vehicles. When operating at full capacity the facility will produce up to 3.5MW of renewable energy, enough to power around 7,000 homes. Biffa is in discussion with a national house builder to supply the digestate from the anaerobic digestion process as a fuel for a combined heat and power facility to be constructed as part of a new eco housing development in the County.

The facility's mechanical sorting plant will also produce a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). Subject to a joint exercise by Biffa and West Sussex County Council to find a long-term sustainable market for the RDF, it will either be sent to a third party outlet or used to fuel a thermal treatment facility that will produce energy in the form of electricity and heat. If required, subject to planning and operating consents, the thermal treatment facility would be constructed at the Brookhurst Wood site. The mechanical sorting plant will also extract any remaining metals from the waste for recycling, helping to boost West Sussex's recycling rates.

For further information, please contact David Savory on **0121 661 6718**

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Notes

- ▶ West Sussex County Council's Planning Committee approved Biffa's plans for the Mechanical Biological Treatment facility in December 2009 and planning consent was granted in April 2010.
- ▶ West Sussex County Council has in place a separate contract with Viridor for recycling and waste handling known as the Reclaim contract.
- ▶ Further information can be found at www.biffa.co.uk/west_sussex and www.westsussex.gov.uk

About Biffa

Biffa is the leading nationwide integrated waste management business that provides collection, treatment, recycling and technologically-driven energy generation and recovery services. Biffa provides an essential service to satisfy the business needs of its commercial, industrial and public sector customers throughout the UK, helping them to meet their legal obligations and corporate responsibility commitments.

Biffa operates two other PFI contracts and 17 local authority waste collection and recycling contracts. It also has the largest industrial and commercial collections network in the UK serving over 70,000 customers through 1,450 collection vehicles and across 128 locations. It operates 65 million m³ of landfill void across 24 sites throughout the UK and a renewable energy business with 103 MW of installed capacity. It currently handles 7 million tonnes of waste each year and processes approximately half a million tonnes of recyclables through nine recycling facilities.

About M+W

M+W UK Ltd is a turnkey Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor specialising in technology based projects such as energy generation, waste processing plants, and complex science, research and manufacturing facilities with high containment environments. M+W UK have full engineering, architectural and operations capability with strong working relationships with leading process technology suppliers to deliver these projects from concept to handover.

M+W UK is part of the global M+W Group who employ more than 4,500 engineers, scientists and industry specialists. M+W Group is a global EPC supplier with an exceptional record for providing complex engineering facilities which are delivered "on time", "on budget" and with an excellent quality and safety record.

<http://www.mwgroup.net>

About Haase

HAASE Environmental Consulting GmbH (HEC) is a planning and design company for mechanical-biological waste treatment (MBT) plants and biogas technology. The team consists of highly experienced specialists responsible over a number of years for the development of these technologies within the HAASE group.

About Eggersmann

Eggersmann Anlagenbau offers turnkey system solutions based on both mechanical and organic waste recovery techniques. Leaders in the supply of both the 'mechanical' and 'biological' stages of MBT, Eggersmann separates waste by composition and particle size to recover raw materials in an effective and efficient way.