

Biffa Press Release

16/11/2009

Biffa receives planning permission for 80,000 tonne AD plant

Biffa has received planning permission from Staffordshire County Council for the construction of an 80,000 tonne per annum anaerobic digestion plant at the company's waste management facility at Poplars, Cannock.

The plant will treat food and vegetable waste from households and businesses; including supermarkets, restaurants, food manufacturers etc, in the West Midlands Region that is currently sent to landfill. The process of anaerobic digestion, which breaks down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen and produces methane rich biogas, will be used to generate over 4 megawatts of electricity, enough to power over 8000 homes. The construction phase will provide employment for almost 100 people and over £10M will go into the local economy, and when fully operational 15 people will be employed.

"We are delighted that the County Council has granted this consent" said Director of Environment & External Affairs David Savory. "We were also very encouraged when Cannock Chase District Council recently decided to support the development. The two authorities have clearly demonstrated that they recognise the critical importance of this type of infrastructure, both in terms of sustainable waste management and the generation of renewable energy. There is also a vital need for inward investment in the West Midlands that will aid the transformation of the regions economy. From the company's perspective, this development is part of our move towards the development of a network of infrastructure that enables us to manage waste as a resource, maximising recycling and the generation of renewable energy, whilst reducing reliance on landfill. Historically we have had a good working relationship with local residents and we have also now extended that to new residents, whom we look forward to continuing to work with"

The technology provider will be Ros Roca Envirotec, part of the Ros Roca Environment Group. Work will start later this month and the plant is planned to be generating renewable electricity in Autumn 2010.

Further press information from

David Savory at Biffa on 0121 661 6713 or at david.savory@biffa.co.uk.