

# Biffa Press Release

20/08/2009

## Biffa announces plans for Leicestershire waste treatment

A state of the art energy recovery facility that will generate 21 MW of electricity – enough to power 42,000 homes - has been proposed by Biffa to deal with Leicestershire's residual waste.

Biffa, one of three companies shortlisted by Leicestershire County Council for the contract to deal with residual waste left over after recycling and composting, has announced plans to build the facility at its Newhurst Quarry site in Shepshed, next to junction 23 of the M1.

The company intends to apply to Leicestershire County Council for planning consent this November.

This site already has planning consent for a waste treatment plant and landfill restoration of the old quarry, although this will not be developed if consent is granted for the new energy recovery facility. Biffa will seek the views of the local community on possible future uses for the old quarry.

In addition to being able to deal with the 180,000 tonnes per annum of household waste required under the County Council's contract, the Biffa facility will have extra capacity of 120,000 tonnes per annum to allow it to handle residual waste generated by businesses and industry in Leicestershire.

Its total capacity of 300,000 tonnes per annum will mean that this facility will be able to utilise much of the County's waste to produce energy in the form of electricity and divert waste from landfill. It will provide a single solution for both household and business waste and avoid the need for separate arrangements or additional facilities.

Biffa's renewable energy plant will comply with the strict environmental requirements of the European Waste Incineration Directive and its operation will be regulated by the Environment Agency.

It will utilise proven, best available technology that will be provided by international thermal technology company Von Roll Inova who have built nearly 400 energy recovery plants across the world. The system reduces the volume of waste that would otherwise go to landfill by up to 95% as well as making a significant contribution towards the country's growing energy needs.

200 to 300 jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase, which will take approximately three years, and around 40 operational staff employed full time after the plant becomes operational.

According to Biffa CEO Andre Horbach, "Waste should be seen as a resource. Our view is that it should be recycled wherever possible and the remaining material used to generate energy.

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Biffa's plan is to construct an enclosed and environmentally controlled building that will house all the energy production processes. Waste will be delivered to a reception area within the building. Automated conveyors will transfer it to the combustion chamber where the heat will produce steam to power the electricity generators.

The plant will incorporate all the required environmental treatment and air pollution control systems to ensure the emissions to air are well within legal limits. Ash from the combustion process will be recycled as aggregates for the building and construction industry. The separate fly ash will be taken off site for disposal.

The plant will be located along the Eastern side of the quarry site, adjacent to the M1 motorway. Access will be via an improved existing quarry entrance in Ashby Road East, 300 metres from motorway junction 23. The estimated number of vehicles accessing the plant, no more than already approved in the current planning consent, will be approximately 140 a day.

Biffa was granted planning consent last year for a waste treatment and sorting plant together with landfill disposal for 375,000 tonnes of waste a year. According to Development Director Simon Allin "Whilst our original plans for this site are still viable, technology has progressed and the Leicestershire procurement process makes an energy plant totally viable. We are so convinced of its benefits that even if we were not successful in gaining the Council waste contract we would still progress this plant for the region's business waste.

"This is an excellent opportunity to move away from landfill and all its associated environmental issues and provide a modern energy recovery facility on a site which is already established as being suitable for waste management on a similar scale."

The company will be undertaking a full community consultation exercise. Information can be found on the website [www.biffa.co.uk/newhurst](http://www.biffa.co.uk/newhurst) where there is also the opportunity of posting comment. The Biffa Newhurst information office can be contacted on 08451 800 490 or by emailing [newhurst@biffa.co.uk](mailto:newhurst@biffa.co.uk).

In addition to presenting plans and details of the proposal to local organisations, Biffa will be holding two public exhibitions; the first in Shepshed Town Council offices on September 19th and the second at The David Collett Suite, Loughborough University Campus on September 20th.

Further press information from  
**Biffa on 0121 661 6713.**