

Continued from front page.

“Brig y Cwm represents a significant investment by Covanta Energy in Wales. The £400m energy facility is strategically sized to meet the residual waste needs for the whole of Wales.

The facility will have the capacity to process annually 750,000 tonnes of residual waste reducing the need to use landfill sites for refuse disposal, at a time when landfill tax is set to rise significantly. It is intended that around 75% of the waste will arrive at the facility by rail.

“The project will create around 650 jobs during its construction phase and more than 100 full time jobs

thereafter – including 81 at the facility. It is also expected to attract other new companies to the area through the availability of low cost energy.

“We will now work with the IPC to ensure people with an interest in the project are able to engage in the next stage of the process in the consideration of our application for the Development Consent Order.”

This is Covanta’s second application to be validated by the IPC. The first was an application for a Resource Recovery Facility at Rookery South Pit in Bedfordshire.

Cleaning up the community



Covanta’s Miami-Dade County facility in Florida provided free disposal of rubbish littering US beaches on International Coastal Cleanup day. The Litter 2 Light initiative saw participants clear beaches and separate recyclates from rubbish. The rubbish was then taken to Covanta’s Energy-from-Waste facility where it was disposed of for free and turned into electricity.

Covanta’s Miami-Dade County facility also donated \$2,500 to the scheme.

Project Updates

A public inquiry into Covanta’s plans for an Energy-from-Waste facility in Middlewich opens in March. Covanta is appealing against the decision by Cheshire East Council to reject the application at Midpoint 18 Business Park.

Residents of Merthyr Tydfil and Upper Rhymney Valley have until March 25th to register their interest in the proposed Brig y Cwm project with the Infrastructure Planning Commission. This ‘pre-examination’ phase follows the IPC validating Covanta’s application for a Development Consent Order for the 67MW Energy-from-Waste facility.

Covanta submitted an Environmental Permit application to the Environment Agency for its proposed Resource Recovery Facility at Rookery South Pit in Bedfordshire.

The Environment Agency confirmed at the end of last year that the application had been ‘duly made.’

Did you know?

The amount of rubbish the UK creates in one year would fill the Albert Hall in London in less than 2 hours*

*Source: wasteonline.org.uk



Will Localism deliver?

Covanta Energy's UK Managing Director, Malcolm Chilton looks at how the coalition government's Localism Bill will impact on a local and national scale.

The much-discussed Bill to embody the principles of localism in the political and policy-making decisions of communities across the country is working its way through parliament and some of the fault lines in its vision for the future are becoming clearer.

It's an important piece of legislation. In many ways it is the flagship for the coalition government's first legislative programme. The broad concepts of devolving power away from Whitehall and empowering citizens to exert more real influence over the decisions that affect local service provision and the shape of development appeal top core instincts within both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

The Bill contains a large number of radical reforms, including:

- a general power of competence for local authorities to promote the well-being of their area
- the ability for voters to call for local referendums to allow them to express their views on key local decisions
- the creation of a framework for 'neighbourhood planning' to allow communities to determine the parameters for acceptable development locally
- reform of the planning process for major infrastructure projects, designed to make them more democratically accountable.

There are detectable differences between the government's rhetoric about cutting local authorities, in particular, loose from the centralising instincts of Whitehall and pronouncements about how particular services should be provided. The most high profile of these, perhaps, is in waste management, where Eric Pickles recently has argued that the failure of councils to abandon alternate weekly bin collections in favour of weekly collection 'could set the cause of localism back by a generation.'

In some respects this crystallises the central dilemma of the localist approach. The philosophy wishes to ensure that decision-makers reflect, and are responsive to, the expressed views of those affected by decisions. So, if people demand weekly bin collections, they should get them. If they say they don't want particular types of development in their locality, they should have the right to shape the planning framework and decision-making to prevent them.

But there is an inherent tension in this because community may have a more than local dimension. This is particularly true when considering the development of new infrastructure. For example, the proposed new high speed rail links will serve cities with populations of many millions, but are likely to adversely impact many smaller communities along the route that may see little or no direct benefit. The same can be said for large-scale waste infrastructure projects whose wider social benefits should outweigh the immediate local objections.

In such cases, it is right that government should step in to ensure that decisions are taken in the wider community (national) interest. In this respect the Localism Bill is encouraging. Although it proposes the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, it retains the streamlined, fast-track process for determining applications.

But only the very largest waste projects – Energy-from-Waste facilities of more than 50MW output – meet the criteria for designation as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. The vast majority will continue to be determined within the reformed conventional planning system.

It is forecast that to meet current waste targets for 2020, several hundred major new waste facilities will have to be built with an investment value of as much as £20 billion. This is both a huge challenge and a great opportunity for the waste sector to become one of the engines of future growth.

Sadly, very few of these projects – whatever process they use – will be popular locally. There is a danger that the reforms in the Localism Bill will change the planning system further away from being a mechanism to make objective, criteria-based decisions on the allocation of a scarce resource (land) towards a kind of beauty parade in which the weight of public opinion becomes the dominant factor in decision-making.

As the Localism Bill goes through the detailed scrutiny of the Committee Stage in the House of Commons, a key task for parliamentarians will be to find a workable balance between the ambitions of localism and the wider needs of society. If they don't achieve it, investment will be further delayed and looming landfill diversion, resource recovery, low-carbon energy and climate change obligations will be put at risk.



Covanta's strategic waste



1. Dublin, Poolbeg Peninsula

The EfW project in Dublin is a Public Private Partnership with Dublin City Council (representing the four local authorities of Dublin). The facility, located on the Poolbeg Peninsula, will provide electricity for up to 50,000 homes and district heating for up to a further 60,000 homes. More than 50% of the energy produced will be classed as renewable, helping Ireland to meet its renewable targets.

Since entering the UK market in 2005, Covanta has come a long way. During this period Covanta has been working on delivering a number of Energy-from-Waste (EfW) projects in the UK and Ireland and 2011 will see Covanta in a strong position with six strategic sites in the UK progressing through development and planning stages or entering construction phases.

Each of the six sites is strategically located taking into consideration transport links and areas which have high levels of commercial and household waste generation. The Dublin project is expected to recommence construction shortly. Ince Park (Cheshire) and Airdrie (North Lanarkshire) have planning permission; Rookery South (Bedfordshire) and Brig y Cwm (Merthyr Tydfil) have both been validated for Development Consent Orders by the IPC and Middlewich (Cheshire) is the subject of a Public Inquiry following an appeal by Covanta which will commence in early March. There is a seventh site in Leeds where Aire Valley Environmental (Covanta and its joint venture partner Kelda Water) are down to the last two bidders for a 25 year contract for the municipal waste stream.

These strategic projects represent an investment into the UK energy and waste infrastructure market of £2 billion and will provide the UK and Ireland with approximately 2.5 million MW



2. Airdrie North, North Lanarkshire

Planning permission has been granted for this CHP-enabled EfW plant and it is expected that the plant will export up to 24MW of electricity and a further 23MW of thermal energy per year.



3. Ince Park, Cheshire

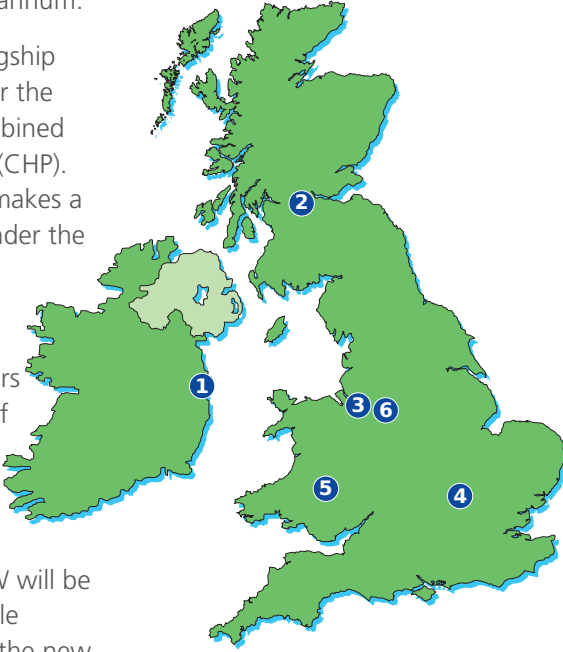
This joint initiative between Covanta and Peel Environmental will see the country's biggest Eco Park created in the North West of England. Covanta's EfW facility has already received planning approval and will be at the heart of the Eco Park, converting municipal and commercial waste which cannot be sensibly recycled into heat and up to 95MW of exportable electricity. This will provide around 16% of the North West's renewable energy target.

and energy vision

hours of sustainable electricity annually, while diverting over 3 million tonnes of waste away from landfill per annum.

Each of these flagship projects also offer the potential of Combined Heat and Power (CHP). The use of CHP makes a facility eligible under the Renewables Obligation Order which requires electricity suppliers to source more of their energy from renewable sources.

Furthermore, EfW will be among the eligible technologies for the new Renewable Heat Incentive when it is introduced in April 2011.



6. Middlewich, Cheshire

Located at the Midpoint 18 Business Park, this plant comprises a mechanical pre-treatment plant, EfW facility and a bottom ash recycling plant. The project will process up to 370,000 tonnes of waste comprising a mixture of household and commercial and industrial waste. Steam generated from the plant will be exported to local businesses. The facility will export 35MW of electricity per year.



4. Rookery South, Bedfordshire

Covanta is planning to construct a Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) at Rookery South Pit near Stewartby. The application for a Development Consent Order was validated by the Infrastructure Planning Commission last year. The 585,000 tonne per year facility will export approximately 55MW of electricity, sufficient to meet the household needs of Bedford and the Marston Vale.



5. Brig y Cwm, Merthyr Tydfil

This rail-linked EfW facility in Wales will be capable of exporting 67MW of electricity from approximately 750,000 tonnes of residual waste. It is expected that 75% of waste will arrive via sealed rail containers. More than 50% of the energy produced at the plant will be classed as renewable.

Facility profile

Lee County at a glance



Location: Southwest Florida

Size: 47 acres

Commenced commercial operation: December 1994

Rated refuse capacity: 1,665 tonnes per day

Boiler design: 60 bar/443°C superheater outlet conditions

Air pollution control equipment: Semi-dry flue gas scrubbers injecting lime, fabric filter baghouses, nitrogen oxide control system and continuous emissions monitoring system.

Energy generation at rated capacity: 57.3 megawatts from two considering steam turbine generator

Sold to: Seminole Electric Cooperative

About Lee County

Covanta's Lee County facility processes waste from both Hendry and Lee Counties, turning it into clean, renewable energy. The facility has an integrated Materials Recovery Facility which separates recyclable items before the EfW process, in addition to a public drop off area where nearby residents can bring non-hazardous waste for disposal. Indeed, Lee County underwent a significant expansion project in 2007 which grew operations of the facility by 50%.

The facility has recently been commended as the 'North American city closest to sustainable waste management' by the advisory board of the Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council at Columbia University in New York. This accomplishment pays tribute to Lee County's efforts in developing and implementing one of the USA's highly advanced waste management systems.

The Energy-from-Waste process has virtually eradicated sending waste to landfill in the area, according to the council.

For more information please visit:

covantaenergy.com/covanta-solutions/covanta-facilities.aspx

Mercury recovery

A key part of Covanta's sustainability initiative is the safe disposal of products containing mercury. To accomplish this, Covanta has initiated programmes in several US regions to help remove mercury from the waste arriving at its facilities.

As well as offering free collection points for products containing mercury, Covanta seeks to educate the community by running awareness campaigns and is working with retailers and manufacturers of mercury products to try and eliminate its use. Covanta is supporting legislation that

would make the manufacturer responsible for the life cycle management of thermometers and mercury added lamps.



Through these initiatives approximately 90.72 kilograms of mercury has already been safely collected.

Did you know?

On average, each person in the UK, throws away seven times their body weight in rubbish every year.*

*Source: wasteonline.org.uk

7x
body
weight



Covanta introduces first Corporate Sustainability Report

Covanta is committed to making information readily available about its goals, priorities, initiatives, and activities.

At the end of last year, Covanta released its first Corporate Sustainability Report. Covering the period 2009 – 2010, the online document explains how Covanta’s Energy-from-Waste (EfW) process works and how it’s a sustainable solution compared to landfill. It also looks at Covanta’s facilities and how they operate and covers community, customer and employee relations. The company’s sustainability policy is detailed in the report, which looks ahead to the future and how Covanta intends to maintain its sustainability initiatives.

Anthony Orlando, President and Chief Executive Officer of Covanta, said: “At Covanta Energy Corporation our long-term view on sustainability is one where the growth of our business is synonymous with environmental stewardship and a positive contribution to society.”

An intrinsic part of Covanta’s sustainability strategy is its Clean World Initiative. This shows how Covanta is committed to achieving and maintaining performance that ranks highly in the waste management industry in health, safety, environment and engagement with the communities it serves. Furthermore, another aspect of this initiative is to work with non-governmental organisations to promote the benefits of EfW and use the technology to support the development of environmental programmes.



An example of this is Covanta working with Project Kaisei (as part of the Clinton Global Initiative) to clean up the world’s oceans of debris. Other projects include the disposal of unwanted medicines and prescriptions and a mercury recovery service, (see page 6 for more information).

“Our mission is to be the world’s leading EfW company in all respects. In pursuit of this mission we have established our Clean World Initiative, a set of programmes that go beyond compliance to help ensure that EfW continues to be one of the safest and most reliable and environmentally sound energy sources in the world,” said Mr Orlando.

The report is available online at: covantaenergy.com/covanta-us-home/sustainability.aspx.

EfW on the big screen!

If you haven’t seen it yet, animated favourite, Toy Story 3 sees Woody, Buzz Lightyear and friends embark on their own waste adventure. This time their travels took them to an Energy-from-Waste facility. See how it all played out here:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCNgNkAZqg4>

Supporting aquatic habitats

Two Covanta facilities are supporting the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP), a private-public scheme which aims to protect, preserve, restore and enhance aquatic habitats throughout America.

Covanta Pittsfield and Covanta SEAMSS will provide funding for CWRP’s projects in 2011.



Prescription disposal initiative extended

Last year, Covanta in the United States of America introduced its Prescription for Safety Programme, safely collecting and destroying 13,608 kilograms of expired and unused prescription medicines. The RX4Safety – the brand name given by Covanta to the collection – scheme proved valuable and so has been extended throughout 2011.

The RX4 Safety programme collects waste medicines, sending them to nearby Covanta facilities where they are then safely destroyed using the Energy-from-Waste process.

John Waffenschmidt, Covanta's vice president of environmental science and community affairs said: "It was such a positive programme and was so appreciated by different folk we decided to extend it through 2011."

Flushing medicines and prescription drugs down the drain, or landfilling them has the potential of contaminating surface

and ground waters, which can be harmful to the environment. Tests carried out at three landfill sites at Maine showed traces of medical drugs including those used for cancer and heart problems. Thermal destruction is a much safer option. In September last year, the Drugs Enforcement Administration staged a national drugs collection programme using Covanta's services to destroy the medicines.

At a recent collection initiative in Madison County, 377 kilograms of prescription drugs were collected to be safely destroyed at a Covanta facility.



Bringing EfW to a computer screen near you

There's more to YouTube than comic capers and kids cartoons. Many companies are now posting footage online showing exactly how their technologies work – and Covanta is no exception.

If you want to see Covanta's technology in action, go to the link below. The video shows the Covanta solution being used at Sacramento, California and makes the whole process easy to understand.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFh5pPiBJEM>



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