

# New plant should “eliminate need for more Cheshire landfill sites”

**A proposed new energy-from-waste (EfW) plant near Middlewich could handle all Cheshire’s non-recyclable household waste, the developer has pledged.**

Covanta Managing Director Malcolm Chilton said: “Our plan will mean the need for additional landfill sites in Cheshire would be virtually eliminated.”

The plant, at the Midpoint 18 Business Park, will be large enough to handle all the County’s household waste that cannot be recycled or composted, plus a proportion of non-recyclable waste from local shops, offices and businesses.

Low-cost electricity from the plant will be offered to around 20,000 local homes, in line with Covanta’s policy at its EfW sites.

At the moment, Cheshire residents produce around 434,000 tonnes of household waste a year. Almost a third is now recycled or processed for compost, with a target of 54% by 2020.

This still leaves almost half to be disposed of, ideally without using landfill.

The proposal addresses the need to deal with this ‘residual’ waste, with the added benefit of generating electricity for local use at the same time.

■ Energy-from-Waste plants mean fewer landfill sites are needed



Covanta is working closely with the property division of major local employer Pochin’s PLC, owner of the Midpoint 18 business park, which includes the proposed site.

Outline details of the proposals will be unveiled to local residents and businesses at a three-day public exhibition later this month (see panel), where Covanta would welcome individual discussion. The planning application will then be finalised and submitted to Cheshire County Council.

## Diary dates

The exhibitions are as follows:

**Middlewich Community Church,  
 Brooks Lane, Middlewich**

Thursday, February 21, 2pm-9pm

Friday, February 22, 2pm-9pm

Saturday, February 23, 10am-3pm

Please call in at any time that is convenient for you, look at the plans and tell us what you think.

## Benefits for the local community

**If planning consent is granted, Covanta will wish to play an active role in the community and proposes to set up a fund for local projects:**

- £150,000 during the first year of the plant’s operation
- £50,000 for each subsequent year of operation

The fund will be available for the benefit of local groups, projects and initiatives. The community will be responsible for deciding how the funds are spent, and Covanta will liaise with local representatives to agree on establishing an independent means of administration. Other benefits would include:

- Only 4% of Cheshire’s residual waste would be sent to landfill – the current figure is 70%
- Reduced cost of waste disposal in Cheshire – EfW will be cheaper than landfill
- Up to 300 jobs during construction
- Up to 50 permanent skilled jobs
- Community liaison group
- Assisting delivery of the Middlewich Eastern Bypass
- Related business opportunities

# Councils face £million fines over landfill

**Landfill cannot go on forever.** By 2020, UK and EU legislation requires a dramatic reduction in the amount of household waste that is sent to landfill.

Failure to dramatically reduce our dependence on landfill will result in heavy financial penalties, totalling millions of pounds and which could lead to an increase in council taxes.

For example, Cheshire has a maximum landfill tonnage allowance, and will be fined £150 for every single tonne exceeding this.

All local councils in the UK must take action **NOW**.

Thermal treatment of waste is supported by UK Government legislation, Regional Waste Strategy for the North West and the Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan.

# Recycling only part of answer

At present, all of Cheshire's waste that cannot be recycled or composted is sent straight to landfill.

Landfill pollutes the atmosphere, generating 40% of the UK's methane emissions, a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Our island nation is rapidly running out of space for burying waste. Landfill also limits any secondary benefits of energy recovery, and prevents further recycling.

Recycling and/or composting will never be the total answer to waste problems, though these measures must play an increasingly important role.

Even if we all carefully separate out each item of rubbish, keeping it as clean as possible, some of it will have no further value – recycling may be too complex, too expensive, or there may simply be no market. A solution is needed for this left-over, or residual, waste.



■ Option One viewed from the north east



■ Option Two viewed from the north east

# Landmark design to create eye-catching feature

Covanta has commissioned architects AEW to come up with two dramatically different designs that would each create an unusual, eye-catching feature in the local landscape. The aim is to move away from a straightforward block of square industrial buildings to produce a more creative visual impact. These designs will be available to study in greater detail at the exhibitions, and Covanta will be seeking visitors' views on the preferred style.

*So please come along and tell us what you think.*

**There will be a number of buildings, the tallest no greater than 50 metres, and a 90-metre chimney stack, all enclosed in architect-designed housing.**

The 38MW plant will be able to handle 450,000 tonnes of waste a year. Electricity is produced by controlled burning of the waste at high temperatures. Enough power will be generated for 20,000 homes. All plants must comply with the Waste Incineration Directive, which ensures that any gases produced by the facility are thoroughly cleaned and constantly monitored. Emission limits set by the directive are much stricter than for coal-fired power stations. The Environment Agency regularly checks that each facility has cleaning systems in good working order and that records are kept of all emissions.

## Waste as a fuel

- Always available in abundant quantities
- Can be sourced locally
- Displaces the use of coal, oil and gas to generate electricity
- Helps reduce dependence on imported fuels
- Cheaper than landfill
- Cleaner than landfill

## Priorities

**Government priorities in terms of waste are first to minimise the amount produced (by all sectors including business, industry, agriculture and households), then to re-use as much as possible, followed by recycling and composting, and finally energy recovery, or EfW.**

## Waste fact

The potential for EfW in the UK is substantial. The UK produces 30 million tonnes of household waste a year. In conventional EfW plants this would produce about twice the electricity generation capacity of the newest nuclear reactor in the UK, Sizewell B.

## Statistics

**There are currently about 20 energy-from-waste plants in the UK, which together treat more than three million tonnes of waste. In 2006/7, 58% of household waste was sent to landfill, while 31% was recycled or composted and 11% processed through EfW.**

## Waste fact

Other European countries with high recycling rates also rely more on energy from waste. For example, Denmark, the Netherlands and Switzerland all recycle over 35% of their waste at the same time as recovering energy from at least a third of their household waste.

## Initiatives

**Local councils in Cheshire offer a wide range of recycling, composting and minimisation activities. From household recycling collections to community waste action grants, new infrastructure and measures are being introduced all the time.**

## Waste fact

- The UK produces 434 million tonnes of waste each year - during the course of a single day, that would be enough to fill the Royal Albert Hall in London 12 times



## World leader in Energy-from-Waste

Covanta Energy is the world's largest supplier of Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities, with 34 plants worldwide that process almost 15 million tonnes of waste each year. All its EfW facilities provide energy directly to the surrounding local communities.

## Residents welcome to express views on proposals

### ■ **Middlewich Community Church, Brooks Lane, Middlewich**

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### Freephone inquiries

0800 1695290

A planning application will be submitted to Cheshire County Council, the authority responsible for waste treatment services, in Spring 2008.

The County will consult with a range of organisations and individuals, and their views will be taken into account when reaching a decision.

Covanta would like to present its

proposals to local residents, and has organised a series of public exhibitions in February 2008.

Please come along, look at the plans and tell us what you think.

Members of the team will be on hand to answer questions and discuss your views on a one-to-one basis. Call in at any time that is convenient for you.

