



News from Covanta Energy

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Information days planned for energy from waste power facility

Public information days are to be held later this month for a sustainable energy plant planned for Merthyr Tydfil which will bring economic and environmental benefits.

Covanta Energy plans to develop an energy-from-waste (EfW) power station which will generate enough energy to power 180,000 homes and reduce the need for harmful landfill sites for refuse disposal. Although a planning application will not be made until later this year, the company is holding public exhibitions to provide local people with an early opportunity to find out more about the project.

The proposed facility – known as Brig y Cwm – will be able to process 750,000 tonnes of waste each year and generate 70 megawatts of electricity. Around 500 jobs will be created during its construction and 100 full time jobs in Wales thereafter.

Located on low lying land near to Miller Argent (South Wales) Ltd Cwmbargoed disposal point, it will not be visible to neighbouring communities. And as the site is located near to an existing railway line, the great majority of waste will be brought to the facility by rail– reducing the need for road transportation.

Malcolm Chilton, Covanta Energy's UK managing director said: "The information days are the beginning of our community consultation programme, which is vitally important as we develop our detailed proposal in the months ahead. Our project team will be at all the sessions and we welcome the opportunity to provide people with factual information about the EfW process and our local plans. We value their feedback.

“Covanta Energy is a world leader in operating EfW facilities and we have many years’ experience in running plants worldwide to the highest standards. I would urge anyone with an interest in this project and wanting to find out more to come along to one of the information days.”

He added that waste would be delivered to the plant in sealed containers, and so it will produce no dust or litter. It will provide sustainable and low cost heat and power to encourage other employers to come to the locality. It will also reduce the need to bury waste in landfill sites that produce damaging greenhouse gases.

Covanta is also investigating the possibility of supplying below rate electricity to people living in neighbouring communities.

The exhibitions will be held on:

- Monday, April 27th 1pm until 7pm – Fochriw Community Centre
- Tuesday April 28th 1pm until 7pm – Merthyr Tydfil Rugby Football Club
- Wednesday April 29th 1pm until 7pm - Merthyr Tydfil Rugby Football Club

Malcolm Chilton added: “We also plan to set up a Community Liaison Panel as a means of ongoing communication with the local community. The panel will play a key role in liaising between Covanta and the local community during the planning stages and beyond. Our representatives will have more information for anyone interested in applying.”

Subject to planning approval, it is intended that the plant be operational by 2013/14.

Ends

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