



Welcome to a new age of green power

Enviropower

- Energy White Paper compliant
 - Kyoto Treaty friendly
- Diverting 48,000 tonnes of waste annually from landfill in Sussex
- Exporting 4 Megawatts of green electricity to the local community
- Producing renewable electricity to power 6-10,000 local homes

The name of the Rabbit Group is well known locally for the provision of recycled means of disposal of construction and demolition waste. Since 1996 the company has led the way in achieving environmentally-friendly means of collection, sorting, separation and grading of the waste prior to consignment for recycling or re-use.

With considerable foresight, in 2004 Company owners Greg Blurton and Mandy Bridson realised that there was a finite source of disposal sites in Sussex, that EU law on landfill was tightening and that the transport costs associated with longer distance disposal would not only have a detrimental effect on the bottom line but that it would contribute to pollution and fuel costs. With an eye on the future, they started to explore the options for a cleaner means of disposal – and the possibility of a greener, sustainable source of energy creation.

The Enviropower Thermal Treatment Plant covering 22,000 sq ft at the Rabbit Group's HQ on the Churchill Industrial Estate will not only divert 47-54,000 tonnes pa of biodegradable waste from landfill, it will also generate electricity from a sustainable source. Excellent news at a time of scarce sources of waste disposal and correspondingly high electricity costs. To put this in context, the whole of West Sussex generates the equivalent of ten times per annum this amount in household waste.

Because material of a biodegradable nature decays in a landfill, methane gas is released. Most landfills in the UK collect the methane for use as a fuel, but even so some of this escapes as a greenhouse gas to the atmosphere: methane is 23 times as potent as carbon dioxide. As a result, the EU Landfill Directive, which became law in the UK in June 2002, requires a reduction in landfilling 'biodegradable' municipal waste to 35% of 1995 levels by 2020.

The government has imposed an obligation on electricity suppliers to source an annually-increasing proportion of their electricity from renewable sources. Rabbit's power station helps to achieve this by generating electricity that is certified by the industry regulator (Ofgem) to be renewable because more than 90% of the fuel is biomass, i.e. wood and paper which comes from plants.

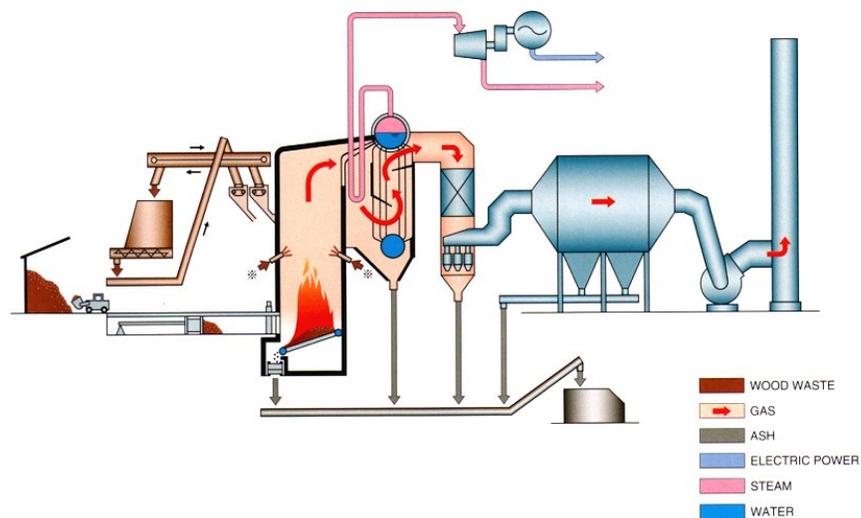
On the 20th October 2008 Environment ministers from the 27 EU countries approved a new waste framework directive that includes provision to burn waste for energy use. The intention is to reduce landfill and the harmful greenhouse gases from landfill sites. This will have the effect of reclassifying waste-to-energy as an energy recovery process rather than a disposal process. In effect, the EU is placing an obligation on Member States to recycle or recover energy from at least 70% of Construction and Demolition Waste. Energy from waste is now official EU policy and the steps that Greg and Mandy took in 2004 have been shown to be visionary.

The Environment Agency regulates and monitors every step of the process to ensure the best available technology is utilised. More than 17 CCTV cameras watch every step with continual automated process monitoring and emissions control and the EA's continuous emissions monitoring records are available for public inspection.

Stringent safety and environmental standards

- Will comply with the EU Waste Incineration Directive December 2002.
- Almost all solid residue from the plant will be consigned for recycling at appropriately licensed establishments.
- The plant will produce no liquid effluent.
- Continuous emission monitoring will ensure compliance with environmental legislation
- No more than the methane equivalent of 13 cows standing in a field per annum will be generated.
- The plant design and operation will comply with all British Standards relating to health, safety and good environmental management.

Diagram (courtesy of Takuma) showing how biomass derived from waste is used in the combustion process to generate steam which in turns drives a generator via steam turbines and produces clean electricity.



All resulting gas is filtered resulting in zero emissions after thermal treatment in the secondary combustors. So in summary, the new Enviropower is relatively quiet (soundproofed to allow air in, very little sound out); there is no impact on the skyline as the stack is only 16 metres high, it does not release any smoke and the process is rigorously monitored to ensure no emissions.

Best of all, it will save 5MW (using 1MW to run its own operation) of fossil fuel-generated electricity and replace it with renewable, sustainable green energy that will directly benefit local residents.

This project is the first of its kind in the UK. A far-sighted company in West Sussex is leading the way. The first of Enviropower's two stream processes has begun, followed by the second in January. The future starts now.

Ends

Notes for Editors

Established in 1990, The Rabbit Group has two bases at present – its HQ and recycling plant at Lancing and its recycling unit and transfer station at Newhaven. It serves the area from Pevensy in the East to Bognor in the West and north as far as Crawley and Horsham.

The core of the business started with waste disposal skips from 2 cubic metres in size up to giant Rolonoff 40s that can carry the equivalent of 800 black bags. Rabbit has grown to include 8 wheeled vehicles for use when skips are not tenable on site – and Plant Hire (Dowling and Rabbit mini diggers), Demolition excavators and other transport and tool hire. The name of the Rabbit Group is well known locally for leading the way in efficient disposal of construction and demolition waste – with 47,000 tonnes pa being dealt with at present (120 tonnes a day). Landfill sites in Sussex are being phased out and in any case the greenhouse impact of methane seeping from these sites has made them overdue for change.

The future of the Company, therefore, lies in the area of utilizing unwanted waste that would normally be used for landfill (a policy that is being phased out in Sussex and is subject to EU controls) and exploiting the latest combustion technology to burn the waste and convert the resultant output to energy.

Enviropower burns specially selected recycling residue to generate steam to drive a steam turbine to produce 4MW of electricity for the local grid - enough to power 6-10,000 homes. This process is green from start to finish – rigorously monitored by the Environment Agency.

Enviropower is the name of this renewable waste disposal and energy creation company. It is the first of its kind in the UK and marks the way forward in an increasingly fossil fuel starved economy. It helps cure two problems – where to dispose of ever increasing amounts of waste and how to contribute green energy in a society desperate for sustainable sources of power.

Key Personnel

For history and strategy - MD Greg Blurton Mob: 07803 269173 or Mandy Bridson (office no) 01903 762020 / mandy@rabbitgroup.co.uk

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