



Newsletter No 1, October 2009

What's going on?

To meet European Waste targets for diverting biodegradable waste from landfill local authorities have to collect and treat food waste.

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) is the process favoured for dealing with food waste. In order to meet landfill targets for 2012/13, it will be necessary to have AD schemes in place to deal with food waste by the spring of 2012, or soon thereafter.

Gwynedd Council has identified a need for AD capacity to deal with food waste that will have to be collected within the County.

What is AD?

Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a natural process whereby bacteria break down organic material in the absence of air, yielding a biogas containing methane.

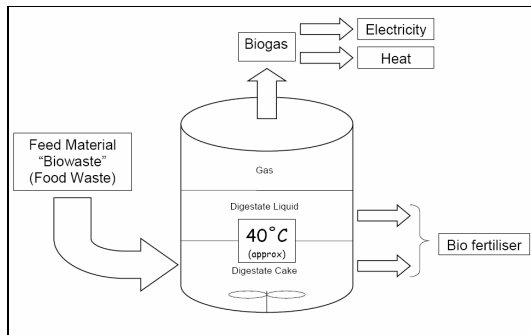
AD is widely used as a renewable energy source because the process produces:

- A biogas (principally methane and carbon dioxide) that is suitable for energy production helping replace fossil fuels.
- A solid residue (digestate) that is similar, but not identical, to compost.
- A liquid that can be used as a fertilizer.



Above - Photo of an AD facility

Below – The basic concept illustrated



What will we be procuring?

We will be procuring a service to treat around 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes of food waste per year. There are different types of 'AD' technologies available, each with their own advantages. As a result we will not specify exactly the type of AD plant to be built, but will use a 'competitive dialogue' process to discuss with suppliers what they are able to offer, and the costs involved.

The Outline Business Case

The Outline Business Case (OBC) is a document used to demonstrate that the advantages and risks associated with the project have been identified, that the project is viable and can be achieved within the desired timescales. It is a planning and management tool that shows to the Council and the Welsh Assembly Government that there is a Strategic, Economic, Commercial, Financial and Management case for project.

The Reference Solution

The OBC contained what is known as a 'reference solution' which is to build an AD plant at the Llwyn Isaf site at Clynog.

However, the fact that the reference solution has been developed on the basis of the Llwyn Isaf site does not necessarily mean that a facility will be developed there. Bidders can offer a service located elsewhere, and it would be necessary to compare the advantages and disadvantages of their proposal with the reference case.

The option adopted will be the one offering the best overall value in financial and environmental terms to the Council.

The Programme / Timetable

It will be very challenging to achieve the target for the facility to be operational by the spring of 2012.

Gwynedd, like a number of other local authorities, is working with WAG to move ahead with the AD procurement process. In order to comply with European Community requirements, the intention to obtain a service to deal with food waste has been advertised. Prospective suppliers have until the middle of October to register an interest in tendering.

A short list of suitable companies will be invited to take part in the competitive dialogue process. Their proposals will be narrowed down so that by early summer 2010 the Council will have identified it's preferred solution and bidder. A final decision on the successful bidder will be made in the autumn of 2010. Construction work will start early in 2011, with the AD plant to be operational by the Spring of 2012 after completing commissioning tests.

The Communications Strategy

The Council appreciates the importance of engaging fully and effectively when dealing with major waste management and other projects.

This newsletter has been produced as a brief introduction to the project and to set the scene.

What Next?

The competitive dialogue process with tenderers is scheduled for early 2010, with an anticipated final decision to go ahead with the project by the end of September 2010. Between now and then the Council will be informing residents and other interested parties of progress on the project.

For further information or should you wish to discuss any matter please contact the Waste Helpdesk on (01286) 679872.