

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	South West Devon Waste-to-Energy CHP Plant
Project Number:	2011 0488
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	The Project concerns the design, construction, operation and maintenance of a waste incineration plant with energy recovery in Plymouth for treatment of residual waste from the South West Devon area.
EIA required:	YES
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : (Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")	YES

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The project comprises a waste incineration facility with electricity and heat recovery that will enable diversion of solid waste from landfills and replacement of energy generated from fossil fuels. The project will be implemented next to a naval base and dockyard, that will off-take most of the energy generated, on a site that currently is used as an aggregate storage area. The site has good road connections and will benefit from a new independent road access. The planned facility, which will be located close to residential areas, does not object with spatial planning objectives for the site.

The project falls under Annex 1 of the EIA directive (2011/92/EU), and accordingly a full EIA is required. Compliance with the Habitats directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) is also required. The promoter has completed the EIA, and received an Environmental Operational Permit in March 2012. The promoter received a Planning Permission from Plymouth City Council in February 2012. A claim for Judicial Review of the Planning Permission has been made by an NGO and a first court review and decision is expected in the next couple of months.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project will contribute to diversion of waste from landfill disposal in line with the Landfill Directive's targets (1999/31/EC). The project will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the methane emissions from landfills and by generating heat and electricity from a partly renewable energy source. The plant will have a higher energy efficiency than usually seen in UK waste incineration plants, due to the heat off-take opportunities offered at this site.

The project does not have any significant effects on Natura 2000 areas, the closest of which is the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries located ca 1 km from the site.

The project is based on a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Statement for Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay City Council, which in turn is based on individual waste management strategies for the three authorities. The Plymouth City Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 – 2030 and the Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Torbay 2008 – 2025 has both been subject to SEA, but not the Municipal Waste

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Management Strategy for Devon 2005-2035, which was prepared before the SEA Directive came into force.

The plant will be equipped with a flue gas treatment system that enables compliance with the emission standards of the Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC). The Environment Agency has stated that it employs Best Available Technology according to the Waste Incineration BREF.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The estimated absolute emissions from the plant have been calculated to 81 kt CO_{2e}/yr, considering only the emissions from the fossil share of the waste inputs. The baseline emissions have been calculated to 132 kt CO_{2e}/yr, resulting in relative emissions of -51 kt CO_{2e}/yr. The baseline consists of a basic MBT facility with bio-stabilisation of all received waste and disposal of the residues. This baseline was selected to meet the EIB recommendations for a credible and legally compliant baseline alternative.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Not applicable.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Public consultations have been carried out in accordance with relevant requirements.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The site is located close to residential areas, and it is expected that the waste incinerator will have visual impacts on some residential properties. The Project Company will take measures to mitigate the impact on neighbours and furthermore implement compensatory measures and investments in the area and employ local staff.

To minimise noise impact, low noise equipment have been adopted, and measures taken to route traffic and noise generating equipment as far from residents as possible.

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