Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park

Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park, Milton Keynes Council

The facility will use a combination of innovative technologies to process the borough’s residual municipal waste, which currently goes to landfill. Mechanical Treatment will be used to remove any additional recyclable materials such as metal cans or plastic bottles which have been left in the waste.

Any food or organic waste will be extracted and treated in an anaerobic digester to generate renewable energy and create a compost-like material for use on brownfield sites.

Finally, any remaining non-recyclable waste will be used as a fuel for an Advanced Thermal Treatment plant. This process will turn waste into a gas, which in turn is combusted to generate high temperature steam which creates renewable electricity in a turbine.

Construction began on Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park in June 2014 and, during 2016 and 2017 the facility has gone through a rigorous testing process. It is due to become fully operational later in 2017.

Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park is the first facility to use this combination of technology in England and Wales.

By creating a ‘waste hub’ in the Wolverton area of Milton Keynes, comprising this facility, a Materials Recycling Facility and vehicle depot, the journeys made by waste collection vehicles in the borough will reduce – creating carbon savings equivalent to around one million road trips from Milton Keynes to London.

The project achieved financial close in June 2013 – just eight months after Amey was named preferred bidder. Rather than financing the facility using PFI credits, which is the usual method for the building of waste treatment plants, Amey Investment Team negotiated a construction finance package with three major lenders to cover the £125m capital investment.

Enviromental benefits:

- The facility will remove an estimated 9% of additional recyclable materials
- Reduce the amount of material going to landfill by at least 95%
- Generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of 11,000 homes each year

Waste treatment