

NEWS RELEASE

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£319.2 million awarded to help reduce landfill waste

Waste facilities in three areas in England will see major improvements thanks to over £300 million of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) investment made by Defra today.

The three projects to receive PFI credits are:

- Hertfordshire County Council has been awarded £115.3 million in PFI credits. Their waste management project has the potential to divert up to 170,000 tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill per annum once operational;
- Norfolk County Council has been awarded £91 million in PFI credits. Their waste management project has the potential to divert up to 70,000 tonnes of BMW from landfill per annum by 2020; and
- The South London Waste Partnership (comprising of four unitary authorities: Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames, Merton, and Sutton) has been awarded £112.9 million in PFI credits. Their waste management project has the potential to divert up to 102,600 tonnes of BMW from landfill per annum once operational.

Environment Minister Jane Kennedy said:

“Reducing our reliance on landfill is an essential part of the drive to tackle climate change and I welcome the ambitious commitment made by these partnerships.

“This will create a real incentive for the local authorities and industry to work together to reduce waste as well as reducing the environmental impact of landfill.” These projects will make an important contribution to tackling climate change. Not only is there the potential to divert a total of 342,600 tonnes of BMW from landfill per year by 2020, they will also reduce carbon emissions from landfill. The total potential carbon dioxide emissions savings is approximately 137,500 tonnes, which is equivalent to removing 43,200 cars from the road for a year.

In addition, these projects have the potential to create over 100 jobs once the plants are operational with up to 1000 jobs during construction and commissioning.

All authorities involved are aiming for a long-term minimum recycling and composting rate of over 50 per cent by 2020.

Notes to Editors

1. The authorities will be issuing their notices to prospective bidders in the Official Journal of the European Union over the next month. The climate change impacts of the proposed technologies will be assessed during the procurement process.
2. To date, including these recent projects, over £2.4 billion has been committed to 36 waste PFI projects, and there are an additional eight projects still in the application process.
3. The Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 provided Defra with additional funding through PFI. The overall level has risen from £280 million in 2007/08 to £600 million, and £700 million over the following years, totaling £2 billion of further investment in waste infrastructure.
4. Municipal waste management statistics for England in 2007/08 were published by Defra on 6 November 2008. The total amount of collected municipal waste has

decreased by 0.6 million tonnes to an estimated 28.5 million tonnes in England in 2007/08 compared to 29.1 million tonnes in 2006/07, a decrease of 2.2 per cent. The average annual change in municipal waste over the five years to 2007/08 was a decrease of 0.6 per cent.

5. The UK has been set targets to reduce the amount of waste it sends to landfill under the EU Landfill Directive. The UK has a target to reduce the volume of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill to 75 per cent of the 1995 levels by 2010; 50 per cent by 2013; and 35 per cent by 2020.

6. In the Waste Strategy for England 2007, Defra published new national waste targets. These include higher targets for recycling and composting of household waste to at least 40 per cent by 2010; 45 per cent by 2015; and 50 per cent by 2020.

7. The figure for the number of cars equivalent is based on the assumption that the average car does 12,000 miles per annum, and, using the most recent UK CO₂ tailpipe average of 164.9 gCO₂ per km (in 2007), then annual UK average CO₂ emissions in 2007 equals 3.184 tonnes CO₂ per car per annum.

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