Planning for Climate Change Case Study



GWE Biogas Anaerobic Digester, Driffield

- Local authority area: East Riding of Yorkshire
- Stakeholders: GWE Biogas Ltd, CO2Sense

Summary

CO2Sense invested £750,000 in the GWE Biogas Anaerobic Digestion facility in Driffield, East Yorkshire.

Background

- The facility is the first commercial AD plant in Yorkshire that processes food waste.
- The plant generates income by charging to take in food waste, selling the electricity generated to the National Grid and claiming the Governments green electricity incentive, the 'feed-in-tariff'.

Method

- It takes in around 50,000 tonnes of food waste each year, which is then processed to generate around 15,000 MWh of electricity, enough to power around 3,350 homes each year.
- CO2Sense invested £750,000, which will be repaid to CO2Sense over time once the project is generating an income. This money will then be used by CO2Sense to support other renewable energy projects.
- In addition to financial support, CO2Sense are helping GWE to attract new feedstock to the plant.

Result - Key outcomes and impact

- In its first 10 years of operation, the plant will save around 260,000 tonnes of CO2.
- As well as producing clean electricity and diverting 50,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill, the facility has created 12 new jobs so far for the area, and led to the creation of a new thriving business.
- The plant has also attracted £5.6 million of private investment along with funding from the Environmental Transformation Fund (administered by Defra and DECC), to help demonstrate the benefits of Anaerobic Digestion.



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