



Media Release

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New Energy Park Plans Boost Environment Capital Status

Plans for a £250 million green energy park to turn waste into energy and reusable products, leaving nothing for landfill have been submitted to BERR.

It is hoped that construction of the energy park in Fengate, Peterborough, will start in July next year and that it will start operating in 2011 – further boosting the city's status as the environment capital of the country.

The facility will manage up to 650,000 tonnes of rubbish every year, converting it into heat, energy or materials that can be used again. The park will produce enough energy to power 60,000 homes a year.

Covering 34-acres, the site has been designed to have a limited effect on the environment with emissions saving 12 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 20 years. The buildings, which will cover only 32 per cent of the site, will become a haven for wildlife, with grass and plants growing on rooftops to encourage wildlife and rare British birds. The remaining 68 per cent of land will be green space, including grassland and ponds, providing more habitats for wildlife. The green space along with trial carbon sequestration equipment will further boost the energyparks' green credentials.

The park will bring 109 highly skilled jobs to the city, 60 per cent of which will be graduates working on research and development to further improve the site's processes and technology. The park will be the first in England to use plasma technology to break down materials. A centre of excellence to cater for national experts attracted to the park's cutting-edge technology will be included on site with lecture halls and a visitor centre to allow the public to see how the facility works.

Chris added, 'The park is great news for Peterborough for a number of reasons, not only delivering green power for 60,000 homes and enhancing Peterborough's Environment Capital status but also attracting young, enthusiastic employees to the growing city.'

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Notes to Editors

At the new energy park rubbish will be sorted into two categories – biomass and mixed waste.

Biomass, made of natural waste, will be burnt in the combustion chamber. The heat generated will boil water collected from rain and the sewage system to produce steam to power turbines that generate electricity.

Mixed waste will be sorted into recyclable and non-recyclable products. Non-recyclable materials will be turned into other products such as lightweight roof tiles and glass bricks, using a plasma vitrification process using electrical arcs to break down materials.

The Peterborough plant will be the first to use plasma technology in England, although it is currently in use in the Far East and Japan.

Media Contacts

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