



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
Council

South Gloucestershire
Council

News Release
15 June 2009

Waste disposal contract awarded by West of England Partnership

The four West of England councils (Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire) will save £44 million over the next five years, and reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill by 75%, thanks to a waste management contract awarded to Dorset company New Earth Solutions.

Chairman of the Joint Waste Committee, Councillor Carl Francis-Pester says, “New Earth Solutions will provide the councils with a cleaner, cheaper and more sustainable way to dispose of residual household waste.”

“This is an important milestone for the partnership. By working together we have been able to secure an excellent arrangement with New Earth Solutions that will greatly reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill and will save the councils millions of pounds. We are all still committed to improving our recycling rates and reducing even further the amount of residual waste”.

“New Earth Solutions offered the councils the best quality at a realistic price, they already successfully operate very similar facilities in Dorset and Kent and we have every confidence that they will be able to manage our waste in a similar sustainable manner.”

Residual rubbish is ‘black bag waste’ that households have left out to be collected after recycling what they can. Currently this waste goes direct to landfill where it rots to produce landfill gases that contribute to global warming. New Earth Solutions will treat the rubbish in a bio-stabilisation process and produces a compost like output that is used in land restoration.

Chris Cox, Managing Director at New Earth Solutions said, “We are delighted to have been chosen by the West of England partnership and look forward to delivering a sustainable waste management solution for the region.

“This award adds to the group’s substantial portfolio of contracts for residual waste treatments and organics recycling. With our independent sources of funding we are on track to reach 20 plants over the next five years. We are currently at a very exciting stage of development and this new contract with the West of England partnership will help accelerate our growth.”

The Bio-stabilisation process produces a type of compost in stages

The black bag waste arrives at the facility and enters a macerator that mechanically turns and splits the bags allowing small biodegradable items to drop out - this goes to be composted.

The leftovers are a mixture of plastic, paper, metal and organic material that gets divided is then recycled (this amounts to about 25% of what they receive)

The remainder is mostly organic material which enters a sealed building where air is forced through and mechanically extracted, the temperature of the compost is kept at 60-70 deg C, water is dripped on it, mechanically mixed, speeding the composting process.

All engines, fans and mechanics are outside the building allowing it to be completely sealed. The extracted air from within the building is forced upwards through a bio-filter (carbon bark chippings) that absorbs odours.

Heating the residue to 60-70 deg C meets the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs requirements for the output to be used on the land.

The organic residue stays in the shed for 4 weeks, then is moved outside where it sits for a further 4 weeks being turned and sieved at intervals.

The end result is a soil restoration product with a high level of nitrogen and phosphorus allowing it to be used as a soil improver. As the original waste comes from mixed black bag waste small particles of non-biodegradable waste may remain in it meaning it is not suitable for domestic applications but is best used as a sub soil in commercial land reclamation projects.

Additional information

The contract requires New Earth Solutions to accept 120,000 tonnes a year of waste from the West of England councils from April/May 2011 onwards.

Currently residents and businesses in the West of England generate about 1.5 million tonnes of rubbish every year (that's a line of full wheelie bins stretching for 2000 miles).

Without this new contract diverting waste away from landfill, the West of England Councils would have to budget for £12.7 million in landfill taxes in the year 2119/20.

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