

Buckinghamshire Residual Waste Treatment Contract

Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of the most frequently asked questions in respect of the Greatmoor Energy from Waste (EfW) and other supporting infrastructure which comprise the integrated solution proposed for Buckinghamshire.

This list is subject to regular review and will be updated as appropriate.

Why is a major waste processing facility required?

The EU Landfill Directive requires a major shift towards more sustainable methods of waste management. Measures are already in place to encourage the reduction of waste and to maximise its re-use through recycling and composting. The next stage is to deal with the large volume of remaining or 'residual waste' that is currently going to landfill.

To achieve this, a network of major waste processing facilities is being developed throughout the UK. Local authorities that fail to meet Government targets for the diversion of municipal waste from landfill will be subject to significant financial penalties.

When did construction of the Greatmoor Energy EfW facility start?

Construction of Greatmoor EfW began on 11th September 2013 and the new access road from the A41 to the site shortly thereafter.

When will the plant be operational?

Construction is anticipated to take 29 months with the EfW fully operational during February 2016.

How much will the Greatmoor EfW facility cost?

The contract value is £275 million.

What do you say to people who still have concerns about the project being too large, too expensive and threatening the health of people and the environment?

All of these questions were thoroughly, and publicly, addressed during the six years that it has taken to get to this point. Extensive public engagement has been undertaken by both FCC Environment and Buckinghamshire County Council during this period. Further, perceived issues such as environmental emissions and health impacts were also specifically considered by the Environment Agency prior to awarding the Greatmoor EfW its environmental permit.

The Greatmoor EfW will use well proven technology provided by an internationally respected technology supplier who has built more than 400 EfW plants throughout the world. Gases generated by the combustion process will go through a three-stage clean-up before being released to the atmosphere. Strict European emission limits will be continuously monitored and the results checked regularly by the Environment Agency. An independent review of scientific research into the impacts of modern, well run EfW facilities on people and the environment in the UK has concluded that there is no significant health risk.

Going forward, we have established a community liaison group at Greatmoor – formed of local community representatives and individuals – that will consider issues concerned with the construction of the facility and then its day-to-day operations. This will include, for example, reporting on the emissions performance of the plant.

Won't traffic increase considerably through a largely rural part of Buckinghamshire?

No - the difference between total permitted vehicle movements into the existing Calvert landfill and the total anticipated movements to the combined new facility is minimal.

In fact, the new access road from the A41 to the facility will *remove* waste traffic currently travelling through villages such as Edgcott, Grendon Underwood and Calvert and the 41 has capacity to cope with the proposed traffic movements.

Won't the incinerator simply stop people from recycling their waste in future?

No - the move towards alternative treatment processes is being driven by the European Union Landfill Directive and Climate Change Policy.



As experience both in the UK and abroad demonstrates, EfW complements recycling; it is not a substitute for it and is **not** intended to divert waste from recycling. In fact, both EfW and increased recycling will divert waste from unsustainable landfill. Countries in Europe with the highest recycling rates – such as Denmark, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands and Germany – also rely on EfW to treat residual waste.

EfW is a modern and safe way of treating and disposing of waste left over after recycling, which would otherwise go to landfill.

Why was EfW selected as the appropriate technology for Greatmoor?

Having carried out a detailed assessment of alternative options, Buckinghamshire County Council embarked on a procurement process that specifically required the provision of a thermal treatment solution.

It has also recognised that EfW performs well in comparison with other potential technologies. The adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan also identifies EfW as being an appropriate technology for the County.

FCC Environment agrees that this is a robust solution to divert residual waste away from landfill.

Why is it necessary to have waste transfer stations?

Waste from the south of the county needs to be bulked at transfer station facilities and transferred to Greatmoor EfW. This will minimise waste vehicle movements throughout the county, reducing 'waste miles', reducing environmental impact and saving money at both the County and District levels.

What progress is being made on the development of the proposed transfer stations?

High Heavens Transfer Station, near High Wycombe, has received planning permission. Construction is scheduled to commence during 2014.

A new planning application for a transfer station at London Road, Amersham, is to be submitted by FCC Environment. The application will address a number of issues that were raised when the previous planning application was refused in July 2012.



Why are you persisting with the Amersham site even though there has been objections?

The site at London Road, Amersham, is identified in the adopted Minerals and Waste Core Strategy as the only other site, aside from High Heavens near Wycombe, in the south of the County, where a transfer station can be developed. All residual waste bulking operations at the proposed Amersham site will be undertaken within the building.

A second transfer station (in addition to the proposed facility at High Heavens) in the south of the county would be the preferred option as two thirds of Buckinghamshire's waste comes from those areas.