

## 1. FELLOWS ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS UPDATE – 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012

### 1.1 Schemes

#### UK Green Investments to invest £80m in Waste Sector

UK Green Investments, investing in green infrastructure until the Green Investment Bank receives state aid, has announced plans to invest £80m in small-scale waste infrastructure through two fund managers, Foresight Group and Greensphere Capital. This will be the first investment by the UK GI (GIB) and is something of a coup for the waste industry to receive support showing that it is clearly a high priority of Government. Vince Cable's BIS investments will be match-funded. This investment in small-scale operations is a stepping stone to bigger investments in large-scale infrastructure which will make a real environmental improvement.

#### Clean Energy Ministerial 3

The United Kingdom will host the third Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM3) at Lancaster House in London on 25–26 April 2012. Ministers from more than 20 participating countries will gather to discuss progress made by the Clean Energy Ministerial's 11 clean energy initiatives, explore ways to enhance collaboration between participating governments, and develop strategies to drive public-private engagement to support clean energy deployment.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu will co-chair the event with UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Edward Davey.

#### £35m Energy Entrepreneurs Fund

Government announced a £35m support package designed to help small, green businesses bring clean technology ideas to market. Funds of up to £1m are available to develop and demonstrate low carbon technologies, services and business models as part of a 3-year Government programme announced in line with the commencement of the Clean Energy Ministerial 3, being held at Lancaster House, London on 25-26<sup>th</sup> April. The fund can be used to leverage private investment and will be handpicked by investors working for DECC. An initial £20m will support energy efficiency technologies whilst the remaining £15m will focus on power generation and will follow later this year.

#### £3m for Heat Storage Innovation

DECC will launch a £3m competition with the Technology Strategy Board to assess the performance of advanced heat storage technologies and their suitability for integration with home heating systems. The competition is part of DECC's Buildings Innovation Programmes and aims to even peak electricity demand, and hence the ease of residential use, of low carbon technologies such as heat pumps.

#### Low Carbon Funding Website Goes Live

A website has been created to help providers and applicants of low carbon funding navigate the funding landscape. Developed by Energy Generation & Supply Knowledge Transfer Network and DECC, the [website](#) allows users to search the latest funds and get help finding collaboration partners. The website aims to increase transparency and knowledge sharing throughout the sector and will be particularly useful for smaller technology companies to keep on top of all the UK support mechanisms.

#### Guidance released for DCLG £250m Weekly Collection Fund

The DCLG have released [guidance](#) to help councils bid for funding from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme. The document answers queries that arose from some of the 180 expressions of interest submitted prior to March 16<sup>th</sup> and at workshops held by LGAs in April.

The document confirms that bids will be prioritised if supporting a weekly residual collection over the addition of weekly services to existing fortnightly residual collections. Credible local support will have to be proven for applications involving fortnightly residual waste collections. The core criteria for Fund



allocations are to: introduce, retain or reinstate weekly collections of residual waste for five years; to provide environmental benefits; and to demonstrate value for money.

## 1.2 Documents Released

### Scottish Waste Regulations Passed

Regulations were passed by Scottish Parliament (09 May 2012) that will force businesses to separate paper, card, plastic, glass and metals as well as food waste, if more than 5kg waste is created weekly, for collection. Councils will be required to provide separate household kerbside collections for the same group of materials (with food collections everywhere apart from rural areas) unless satisfied that quantities and qualities of collected materials will not be significantly lowered or mixed by not using separate collections. In this case, separate dry-recyclable containers need not be distributed to all households. More details are set to be released in June as part of the consultation document.

Zero Waste Scotland will invest £8m in councils and commercial waste management companies including £5m to develop food waste collections and £750,000 to help SME collection services.

The draft regulations also state restrictions to the feedstock of EfW facilities to avoid managing materials in the wrong part of the waste hierarchy; banning biodegradable waste completely from landfill by 2020; and removing FE and hard plastics prior to material inputs into incinerators. Scotland hopes to achieve 70% recycling by 2025.

## 1.3 Waste and Recycling News

### GWE Biogas Achieves Pas110

Organics recyclers GWE Biogas has had material from its plant in Driffield, East Yorkshire classified as PAS110 compliant in the past month. Three materials, separated liquor, separated fibre and whole digestate, from its AD plant have all received approval. The digestate from source-separated biodegradable waste will be used on the company's land as fertiliser for milling wheat and malting barley. The plant processes 50,000t of food waste/yr which is put through de-packaging technology and produces 2.1MW energy. Three other companies have PAS110 approval: Lower Reule Bioenergy for the Gnosall AD plant in Staffordshire, AnDigestion for the Hosworthy AD plant in Devon, and Scottish Water Horizons for the Deerdykes AD facility.

### Compost Awareness Week 6-13<sup>th</sup> May

Home composting has become the focus of council-pushes nationwide to in a bid to capture 4million tonnes of waste every year that would otherwise be thrown away for use in the garden. Up to 30% of household bins is made of organic waste, which, as compost, becomes a valuable and nutrient rich material capable of improving soil structure, maintaining moisture levels and balancing soil pH.

### SITA Awarded Largest EA RDF Export Permit

SITA UK has been granted permission to export 600,000t of RDF to The Netherlands over the next three years after being granted the largest ever UK RDF export permit by the EA. The permit covers more RDF than SITA UK were previously allowed to export to the whole of Europe.

The RDF will be a mix of municipal and C&I waste from SE England processed at SITA UK sites which remove recyclable content and process the residuals through trommels and shredders. The RDF will power SITA UK's sister company's (SITA Northern Europe Waste Services (SITA NEWS)), CHP facility in Amsterdam, defined as a high efficiency "R1" recovery facility under the rWFD.

### Landfill Tax Rises

Landfill Tax has risen to £64 per tonne from the 01 April onwards, the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year it has risen in price. Government's escalator system will carry on until 2014, where it will remain £80/t until 2020.

### Cheshire Nappy Service

Cheshire West and Chester Councils a to become the first council in England to offer a weekly nappy collection and recycling service. The Vale Royal area will initially hold a 6 month trial.



## 1.4 Energy News

### Progress for two new AD Plants – Agrivert and BiogenGreenfinch

Agrivert has begun construction on a 50,000tpa AD facility near Wallingford after receiving funding. The plant will process the food waste for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead as well as a number of private clients. 2.4MW of power will be produced by the facility which could be up and running before the end of 2012. Agrivert has identified markets for the use of the process's digestate with the majority to be used locally.

BiogenGreenfinch has been named as the preferred bidder for the consortium of Denbighshire, Conwy and Flintshire Councils in North Wales. They are to construct an AD plant to process 22,500t food waste at Waen, St Asaph. BiogenGreenfinch are responsible for designing, building and operating the plant which is still subject to planning approval. Forecasts are for construction to commence by the end of 2012 and enough power will be created for 1,500 homes. BiogenGreenfinch recently won another contract for an AD facility in North Wales, for Gwnedd Council.

### Solar Bridge Array in London

Blackfriars Station, London is to undergo a renewable make-over courtesy of Solar Century and Sanyo. The Victorian station bridge, crossing The Thames, is being renovated and will have 4,400 solar photovoltaic panels installed on its roof. This will make it the world's largest solar bridge and most iconic renewable energy project in London. The 6,000m<sup>2</sup> of PV panels will be in place by mid-2012 and will produce 900,000kWh of electricity per year, providing 50% of the stations energy-use. Rain harvesting systems and sun pipes for natural lighting will also be installed.

### UK and US Team Together for new Floating Wind Turbine Venture

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on "Collaboration in Energy Related Fields has been signed during CEM3 as a new agreement on greener energy initiatives between the UK and US. The two countries will work together to develop floating wind turbines, which have the advantage of accessing power from areas of deep water inaccessible to standard offshore wind turbines. Floating turbines may also become cheaper in the long term as they won't need any foundation work. Five separate trials are to be run, 4 in the US and 1 in the UK, to produce a commercial 5-7MW turbine by 2016.

### SSE Fined for Mis-selling

Misleading doorstep selling techniques have cost SSE £1.25m in fines following a court case brought forward by Surrey County Council Trading Standards. SSE were found guilty of 2 of 7 charges brought against them and have since stopped their door-to-door sales tactics and introduced a £5m compensation pot to reimburse customers.

### Wind Contribution to GDP Announced

Research funded by DECC and Renewable UK has shown Onshore Wind developments to have contributed £548m to the UK economy in 2011 as well as providing 9,000 jobs. Each megawatt (MW) of installed onshore wind capacity adds close to £700,000 to GDP with approximately 1/7 remaining in the Local Authority area. If capacity reaches 13GW by 2020, as predicted by Government's Renewable Road Map, this contribution could rise to £780m with 11,600 jobs.

### Halt in British Nuclear Investment

RWE Power and E.ON have announced a halt to investment in new nuclear generating capacity leading to fears the UK will have to rely heavily on expensive imports. The decisions were made due to the cost in Germany of shutting down reactors following the Fukushima incident. Whilst this is good news for renewable energy industry, realistically, the majority of the responsibility will shift onto gas suppliers.

### Davey's Emissions Performance Standard Pledge

Ed Davey has pledged that if plants are built with emissions below the Emissions Performance Standard, then it will be exempt from compulsory modifications until 2045. This is in a bid to reduce short term investment in gas-build, which has been expensive to run this winter, and reduce



emissions from coal- and oil-powered stations. It is thought this agreement will compromise the UK's ability to hit Carbon targets.

### Fracking Given the Go-Ahead

DECC has further benefitted energy-from gas production by allowing the continuation of shale-gas fracking after reporting that earthquakes experienced across Lancashire in April and May 2011 were caused by the fracking process but that the possibility of future fracking-earthquakes causing damage was "extremely small".

### EU ETS Opt Out Option

The European Commission is to include provision for small emitters and hospitals to opt out of the EU Emissions Trading System due to the disproportionately high costs of administration when compared to the savings of CO<sub>2</sub>. The mandatory system was introduced in 2005 with 1,000 installations of the overall 12,000 involved belonging to the UK. Currently in Phase II of the System, the introduction of Phase III in January 2013 will bring more stringent targets to help deliver a 20% reduction in emissions compared to the 2005 baseline. Because of these stringent targets, the opt-out option will be introduced with a new system to be delivered for these companies to meet equivalent savings.

## 1.5 Vehicle News

### SITA UK Ecotrak Trials

SITA UK has reported positive results after using the "Ecotrak" driver management system. The software was used to monitor SITA UK's vehicle fleet across its public sector contracts to identify potential carbon savings. Along with on-going driver training, the driver behaviour and vehicle performance monitoring has resulted in fuel savings of 11% over 12 months equating to a saving of 3,000t of carbon emissions.

### Gullivers Municipal Hire Division Open NW Facility

Regional truck and van hirers Gullivers, who also offer specialist vehicles for the waste and recycling industry, has bucked the trend of many other specialist waste vehicle hirers by not going bust over the past 5 years by avoiding bad investment and hiring vehicles out at unsustainably low prices. In June a new depot was opened in Agecroft, Salford, showing that the company's patience over the last few years was worth the temporary stagnation of its specialist vehicle hiring. The ~£50m investment in the facility means the company's 9<sup>th</sup> nationwide depot allows it to hire to NW and NE England without running up large transportation costs.

### Fairport Containers, Chorley

Skip refurbishers Fairport Containers, based in Chorley, Lancashire, and Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, offer turnaround for damaged skips in around 10 days, providing short-term options when required without the cost of purchasing brand new containers. Amongst other commercial services, they also create new designs of skip from older, worn, not-in-use skips to provide skip-types more with modern demand for new, green waste operations. Business has gone well with the Chorley site now offering production capacity for 7,500 units. The company's next step on the way to expansion is to run asset management contracts to provide a paper-trail history of each of its skips including, the owners, damage and repairs to settle disputes and provide real values of its products.

## 1.6 Other News

### Mobile App to Reduce London Pollution

Recyclebank has developed an App for smartphones to encourage residents of London to walk or cycle more often to reduce pollution and congestion. "Re:Route" incentivises green transport by giving members points for each mile of green transport which can be used as discounts at numerous partner companies such as Marks & Spencer. The App also shows members how many calories they have burnt and how much CO<sub>2</sub> they have saved. The next development is to create links with Barclays Cycle Hire to ensure there are enough bikes and allow sign-in via Facebook.

