

Press Release 12 October 2018

Northacre Renewable Energy submits renewed application for advanced thermal treatment facility

- New and improved application for Northacre renewable energy facility submitted
- Significant benefits compared to existing plans which have been approved – an opportunity to deliver a better facility
- Views of Strategic Planning Committee councillors and community taken on board, with reduced building heights, smaller footprint and new more landscape sensitive cladding proposed
- An opportunity to develop a solution to Wiltshire’s non-recyclable waste which reduces the need for landfill, significantly reduces long distance lorry journeys and removes the risk that exports of waste to Europe may become disrupted
- A facility to put waste which cannot be recycled to good use, generating electricity with the capacity to supply 46,000 homes, while supporting goals to increase recycling
- An opportunity to generate economic benefits for Wiltshire, while saving tax payers and businesses money by no longer having to transport non-recyclable waste to Europe

Northacre Renewable Energy has submitted updated plans to improve the already consented advanced thermal treatment facility to provide a sustainable solution for non-recyclable waste in Wiltshire.

The company is proposing to develop the state of the art, safe and sustainable advanced thermal treatment facility to manage waste that cannot be recycled, and would otherwise be transferred by road across the county, the UK or even to Europe.

The ambition for the plant is to provide a local solution for Wiltshire’s waste, which will put it to good use, generating enough renewable energy to power 46,000 homes. The facility will also create 40 permanent local jobs and generate economic benefits during construction, while cutting the costs of Wiltshire Council and local businesses, by preventing the need for non-recyclable waste to be landfilled or transported overseas.

The latest application marks a significant improvement upon existing planning permission, that was received in 2015, to develop a facility at the site, as it utilises the latest high efficiency technology. It also reflects the views of Councillors who considered a previous application earlier in 2018, with the height of the proposed buildings and the footprint both being reduced and the cladding changed to minimise landscape and visual impact.

Discussing the submission, Mike Hill, chief executive of The Hills Group said: “The advanced thermal treatment facility that we are proposing can become a critical element of Wiltshire’s waste management infrastructure. It’s crazy that, rather than being utilised locally, non-recyclable waste is being driven long distances across the country or even to Europe. This approach costs significant amounts of money, is bad for the environment, and allows other people to benefit economically rather than us here in Wiltshire. We are proposing an advanced, sustainable facility, which turns

non-recyclable waste into valuable energy, providing a solution to waste challenges and economic benefits for people and businesses here.”

He added: “We are aware that some people have reservations about our proposals. But as a company which was founded in Wiltshire over 118 years ago, and employs over 650 people, we are committed to doing the right thing for our communities and people across the county. These proposals represent a significant improvement on the project that has already received planning consent and we have listened to the views of the Strategic Planning Committee Councillors, making our final proposals even better, with reduced visual impact. This is an opportunity to deliver the best possible waste infrastructure for Wiltshire, which I hope we are able to take.”

If approved, the proposed advanced thermal treatment plant will be developed using state of the art gasification technology which, rather than burning waste in an incinerator, treats the material at high temperatures and combusts the resulting gas. This technology, which is used extensively in Europe, the USA and Japan, results in reduced emissions.

Emissions from the facility will be carefully monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in order to comply with strict Environment Agency regulations. The height of the stack has also been increased in order to further reduce any possible local impacts from emissions.

Key facts:

- Northacre Renewable Energy has a planning permission for a facility, this application is designed to deliver a better facility including:
 - More efficient energy generation
 - A higher stack to comply with the latest Environment Agency standards and provide greater assurances regarding local air quality
 - Reduced building heights, reduced footprint and improved cladding to minimise landscape and visual impacts
- The facility will generate energy with the capacity to supply 46,000 homes
- It will create 40 full time jobs once operational, and over 150 temporary jobs during construction, while providing many additional opportunities for local businesses in the supply chain
- It will reduce lorry traffic by over 2,000 journeys as non-recyclable material will no longer need to be transported across the country and to Europe.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited is a company formed by The Hills Group working with investment partners. www.northacre-energy.co.uk

The Hills Group is a privately owned family company with a broad and successful portfolio of business activities which include recycling and waste management; quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and building new homes. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas. The Group has a turnover of £96 million and employs almost 600 people at 28 sites.

For further information, please contact:

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