

# Anaerobic Digestion & Biogas News

July 2011 [www.wspenvironmental.com](http://www.wspenvironmental.com)



## Welcome back!

It's been a busy time in the Anaerobic Digestion (AD) sector since our last newsletter! We've gathered together a selection of interesting news bites and event details to help keep you up to speed...enjoy!

## News: AD Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) Amended

In March, the Government was concerned that existing FIT levels failed to stimulate growth in the uptake of AD. Following public consultation, FIT levels have been reviewed and, as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011, new entrants to the scheme will receive these amended tariffs:

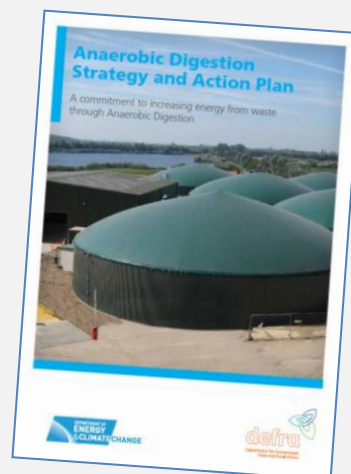
≤ 250 kW = 14 pence/kWh  
>250 kW - ≤ 500 kW = 13 pence/kWh

More information about the scheme can be found on DECC's website - [CLICK HERE](#) for further details.

## Hot off the Press! New Strategy and Action Plan for AD

Defra and DECC have just published the 'Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan' for England. Many actions within the plan focus on disseminating information and research surrounding the technical aspects of AD. The action plan outlines proposals to formalise operator requirements and competency training, introduces the Quality Protocol for Biomethane (March 2012) and calls for clarification regarding the regulation of co-digestion of organic waste with sewage sludge at sewage treatment works. The latter will be influenced by the findings of Ofwat's [Sustainable Sludge](#) project, which will be due for publication in autumn this year.

Within the strategy, the Government has also agreed that WRAP will set up a fund that will make a total of £10m available over 4 years to help stimulate investment in additional AD infrastructure capacity. Details of the scheme's focus and eligibility criteria are expected to be released in September 2011. To read the strategy in full, [CLICK HERE](#).



## WSP at the UK's Anaerobic Digestion & Biogas Exhibition - Come along and meet us!

The Anaerobic Digestion & Biogas Association (ADBA) will be hosting UK AD & Biogas 2011, an event that brings together AD sector professionals with those that want to find out more. Katarina Starberg, a Technical Director within our specialist Biogas Team, will be hosting a debate on biogas upgrading technologies at the event on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Katarina is a recognised expert in the treatment of organic waste and sewage sludge and has gained extensive experience managing both national and international AD plant development projects. Katarina will be sharing some of her experiences surrounding the upgrade of biomethane for use as a vehicle fuel and for grid injection.

To arrange an appointment with Katarina, please email [Beth.Holden@WSPGroup.com](mailto:Beth.Holden@WSPGroup.com). The event will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at the NEC in Birmingham. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more.



## Understanding Opportunities for Anaerobic Digestion - A great success!

In May, WSP hosted a key briefing session at our Leeds office, 'Understanding Opportunities for Anaerobic Digestion'. The event attracted over 60 delegates from across the UK and provided an opportunity to learn about a range of topics relating to AD, including details of suitable finance mechanisms, options for accessing investment and advice about how to manage risk within a development

"It was fantastic to attend an event of this quality on my doorstep."

Peter Scholes, Urban Mines

consortium. Speakers also examined technical issues surrounding plant feasibility via a number of case studies and examples. Delegates were able to quiz the panel during open Q&A and networking sessions.



Alexander Pohl  
HSBC



Simon Parrish  
John Laing  
Investments



Nick Churchward  
Burgess Salmon



Mark Richmond  
WSP



Peter Harvery  
Enpure



Richard Gueterbock  
Clearfleau

Is there a topic relating to AD or biogas that you would like to be discussed at future events?  
Get in touch with us: [Beth.Holden@WSPGroup.com](mailto:Beth.Holden@WSPGroup.com)

## Big News: Biffa opens UK's largest AD facility

On 17<sup>th</sup> June, Biffa held an open day for their new AD facility at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. With a 120,000 tonne per year capacity, this places the Poplars AD facility as the largest of its kind in Europe. The facility cost £24 million to develop and will treat predominantly commercial and industrial food and organic waste. Once fully operational, it is expected that the site will generate 6MW of renewable energy for the National Grid.



WSP were involved in providing a range of services for the project, comprising project management and construction supervision. Our key roles included Project Coordinator & Construction Design Management, HAZOP Chair & Scribe, contract administration, cost valuations, programme management and engineering drawing. For further information about how we supported this project, contact: [Mike.Branch@WSPCEL.com](mailto:Mike.Branch@WSPCEL.com)

To find out more about the Biffa facility, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Keeping up with the Courts: Implications for AD Sites

A recent High Court ruling on a council's Core Strategy and the assessment of options for housing development (*Save Historic Newmarket Ltd v. Forest Heath District Council [2011] EWHC 606*) has implications for future AD Development Plan Documents (DPDs). In this case, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Core Strategy failed to report on the assessment of options for a site. If you're looking to promote a site for an AD facility through a DPD, don't forget to ensure that the SEA gives it proper consideration. The same principle applies if you are involved in a site that is already in the DPD, it will be worth monitoring the SEA to ensure that there are no risks that might delay adoption of the plan or at worst see parts of it thrown out by the High Court. For more information, contact [Sean.Nicholson@WSPGroup.com](mailto:Sean.Nicholson@WSPGroup.com)

## To find out more, please contact:

**Matthew Venn**, Business Unit Manager

**Mobile:** +44 (0)79 2025 0599

**E-mail:** [Matthew.Venn@WSPGroup.com](mailto:Matthew.Venn@WSPGroup.com)