

EnviRecover Efw (Energy from waste) Note

The incinerator on Hartlebury Trading Estate has been operating since March 2017, converting the collected municipal waste from Worcestershire and Herefordshire to electricity on a daily basis.

The operation under normal production conditions is self sustaining, of the 20MegaWatt of power generated, 2MW is used to power the whole facility, the remainder is exported to the National Grid.

The unit processes waste 24 hours a day ,7 days a week, with an annual throughput of approximately 220,000 tonnes.

Like any continuous operation, annual maintenance, known as 'the outage' is required to carry out essential repairs, parts replacement, upgrading and servicing of all aspects of the equipment, to support the next production campaign. Routinely this takes 2 and sometimes 3 weeks, dependent upon the amount and degree of work being undertaken. During this period, there can be as many as 300+ companies onsite, with over a 1000 engineers operating across the facility, 24 hours a day.

Historically, parking, setting up of individual site offices, welfare facilities, material storage and equipment compounds, has been achieved because of adjacent industrial units being vacant and occupied for this period.

This has allowed the current carpark to be the site for the portable generators and fuel bunkers, required to provide power for all aspects of the facility, during the servicing of the onsite turbine and safely away from occupied cabin amenities.

With the increased activities and the attraction of new enterprises within the trading estate, 2024 is going to be a bit more of a challenge, for the accommodation of the demands of the outage.

Pivotal to this is the location of the portable generators, needed to take over from the onsite unit. They have to be sufficiently close to the mains changeover switches, for the cable lengths not to suffer transmission losses and far enough away for the fuel bunkers to be safely isolated any occupied buildings, in case of fire.

To achieve this and accommodate the reorganised outage facilities, it is proposed to use the carpark to house the required portable buildings onsite. This will therefore require a new area for the portable power equipment, while taking account of the performance and safety implications.

An area to the side of the current concrete turbine bunker has been identified, however it will require the removal of a landscaped border. After a full ecology assessment, a hardstand paved area will be constructed specifically to locate the portable generator equipment and safely house the fuel containers.

To mitigate the loss of habitat, a full replanting scheme will be undertaken around the drainage pond to the front of the main offices, replacing the trees and shrub species in an area which is currently grassed land. A planning application will be submitted shortly to apply for permission to carry out these works. But as a matter of courtesy through the CLG, a heads up is being passed to the Hartlebury Parish Council, as the operation falls within their Parish.

With 196 local residents touring the facility in 2023 and a further 20 guided tours planned throughout 2024, no doubt someone will ask what is going on!