

13 October 2014 – for immediate release

Plans for Northacre Renewable Energy

Made in Wiltshire ... local renewable energy made from locally-sourced fuel, powering local Wiltshire businesses

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited, part of The Hills Group, is proposing to submit a planning application to build a renewable energy centre on the open land between Hills Waste Solutions' existing Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (Northacre RRC) and Arla Foods Westbury Dairies at Stephenson Road, Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury.

Northacre Renewable Energy will provide Wiltshire with a source of renewable energy in the form of electricity and potentially heat, making it a sustainable solution for dealing with local waste whilst powering local businesses.

An 8 week period of pre-planning consultation begins today to seek views on the proposal to develop the Northacre Renewable Energy facility with a public exhibition planned for the 4 November from 2pm to 8pm at Northacre RRC. Local businesses, community leaders and residents are being consulted at this early stage in the development. The website for further information is: www.northacre-energy.co.uk

Up to 22 megawatts of power will be generated using Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) made at the neighbouring Northacre RRC, blended with waste from commercial and industrial outlets local to the facility.

The facility will use gasification technology to generate electricity and the potential for heat making it an energy efficient system. Discussions with local businesses who are interested in being supplied with local heat and power from Northacre Renewable Energy are ongoing.

A substation will be constructed on site to enable the electricity produced to be exported to the national grid, together with possible private underground connections to local businesses.

Northacre Renewable Energy director, Mike Webster commented, "This is an exciting opportunity to help meet local energy needs whilst managing local waste sustainably. We are creating a local circular economy: Wiltshire's household waste is made into a SRF at Northacre RRC and together with commercial and industrial waste destined for landfill will supply the proposed Northacre Renewable Energy facility right next door which will in turn power local businesses."

Currently the SRF from Northacre RRC is transported by road to port and shipped to energy facilities located in Germany and Holland because there is not a local energy centre in Wiltshire. Northacre Renewable Energy will help fill the gap in the renewable energy market and enable locally produced fuel to be used to generate local energy which supports the concept of regional energy security. Northacre Renewable Energy will also create 40 new jobs and support Wiltshire's aspiration for a green economy.

Northacre Renewable Energy is aiming to submit its planning application to Wiltshire Council in December 2014. Subject to planning, Northacre Renewable Energy would then be built in 2015/2016 with the facility fully operational in 2017. **ENDS**

Further information:

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Notes to editors:

1. The Hills Group is one of Wiltshire's largest employers with over 400 staff working across the regions it serves. Established in 1900 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. From its base in Wiltshire, Hills serves customers in central Southern England and Wiltshire (www.hills-group.co.uk).
2. Following an extensive technology appraisal, Hills' chosen technology partner is the leading manufacturer and operator of advanced thermal treatment called Chinook Sciences with its headquarters in Nottingham. Chinook Sciences was formed in 1998, with the first operating plant delivered in 2000, which is still working today. Chinook's clean technology is now in its ninth design generation and has an unrivalled 14 year track record of industrial operation. Planning permission has been granted for four facilities using Chinook technology in the UK, one of which is currently nearing completion at Oldbury in the West Midlands and a second, which is in the early stages of construction in East London (www.chinooksciences.com).
3. This pre-application stage will run from 13 October to 5 December 2014. Feedback received will help shape the company's planning application which is hoped will be submitted to Wiltshire Council in December 2014 for consideration. As part of pre-planning consultation, a public exhibition will be held as follows:

Date & time: Tuesday 4 November from 2pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, Stephenson Road,
Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury, BA13 4WD

4. The Northacre Industrial Park has been identified in the 'Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Plan 2013' as a site suitable for waste treatment such as gasification.
5. The chosen technology is an advanced thermal treatment technology known as gasification. The basic stages of the technology are as follows:
 - Gasification of the feedstock (SRF and C&I waste) to produce syngas
 - Combustion of the syngas
 - Utilisation of the heat generated through a waste heat boiler in order to generate steam
 - Use of this steam in a steam turbine to generate electricity, with approximately 4MW of the electricity generated used for the installation itself, approximately a further 2MW used by the Northacre RRC and the remainder either supplied to local businesses or exported to the National Grid
 - Control of emissions.
6. The website www.northacre-energy.co.uk provides further information about the plan to generate local energy as well as details about the gasification technology proposed.