

Students learn through new waste treatment plant

Twelve higher education civil engineering students from the Faculty of Construction and Environmental Studies at City of Bristol College will be using the new waste treatment plant in Westbury to help them with their studies.

The Northacre resource recovery centre (RRC) is the first waste treatment plant of its kind in Wiltshire where mechanical biological treatment technology will be used to treat 60,000 tonnes of household waste. The site will be operated by Hills Waste Solutions under a 25 year contract agreed between Hills and Wiltshire Council and is a key element in the council's strategy to reduce waste to landfill.

Ed Dodd, divisional director Hills Waste Solutions, said: "Northacre RRC provides the perfect real life example for the students to learn from. It has all the elements of design, build, process equipment and maintenance that they will need to understand in their future roles."

The group of first year students visited Northacre RRC with Capita Symonds, the design management contractors on site, and Rajeswari Raj, their higher education lecturer at the college and coordinator of the site visit. Capita Symonds provides professional guidance to the civil engineering students during their course.



Image: Paul Mackie (first left), Rajeswari Raj (second left) and Richard Reynolds (far right) with City of Bristol College civil engineering students on tour at the almost completed Northacre resource recovery centre in Wiltshire.

On arrival at Northacre RRC the students were given a brief introduction to the site and technology that will be used to process waste, together with a chance to look at the detailed architectural drawings of the plant. After that they donned their hardhats, gloves and protective eye wear for an up-close inspection of the building under construction. Richard Reynolds of Interserve Construction Ltd, the principal design and build contractor on the project, conducted the tour and explained the various construction phases and methods employed to achieve the highly specified and specialist build required for this new facility.

Paul Mackie, senior engineer at Capita Symonds said: “We thought this year the students would benefit from learning about the Northacre RRC scheme as it has many interesting facets and interfaces between the various disciplines.”

Andrew Stone, head of The School of Construction Technology and Professional Studies at the college said: “The value of site visits such as this should never be underestimated, students benefit in so many ways as they reinforce knowledge gained from a wide range of programmes of study at the college. Engaging with employers is a very important part of what we do at the college, for the School of Construction and Professional Studies engaging with Capita Symonds, a highly professional employer with technical expertise across so many services can only serve to reinforce our high quality teaching and learning curriculum.

“On behalf of our students, Raj Rajeswari, and the City of Bristol College I would like to extend our gratitude to Capita Symonds and their professional team for this valuable learning opportunity.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The Northacre RRC is the first waste treatment plant in Wiltshire that will use mechanical biological treatment technology
- Northacre RRC has the capacity to treat 60,000 tonnes of waste per year, which when processed will comprise (averages)
 - o 28,200 tonnes of refuse derived fuel (RDF)
 - o 20,000 tonnes lost through drying
 - o 1,800 tonnes of recyclable metals recovered
 - o 10,000 tonnes of bio-stabilised residue to landfill
- The Northacre RRC will reduce the proportion of Wiltshire’s municipal waste sent to landfill from 37% to less than 20%
- Construction of the plant is due to be completed in December 2012
- The site is expected to be fully operational by September 2013 following a six to nine month commissioning phase
- Website www.northacrerrc.co.uk

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