

**NEWS RELEASE – 19 December 2013**

**Northacre resource recovery centre fully operational**

The two and a half year project to build and fully commission Wiltshire’s first mechanical biological treatment plant has reached completion.

The Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, based on the Northacre trading estate in Westbury has been issued with a completion certificate which marks the end of the commissioning phase and sees the centre move onto normal day-to-day operations.

It also signalled the official start of the 25 year contract between Hills Waste Solutions, the site’s operators, and Wiltshire Council for 60,000 tonnes of the county’s household waste to be processed at the site and turned into a solid recovered fuel (SRF) instead of being sent to landfill.

Mike Webster, group director for Hills Waste Solutions, said: “We have reached a significant milestone in Wiltshire’s overall waste management strategy . The Northacre RRC provides a long term solution for waste by diverting material away from landfill, extracting recyclables from it and then creating a valuable fuel source.”

The fuel being produced is currently being exported to Europe, under a 5 year contract, where it is used to generate energy. In the meantime Hills is looking into the options to secure a more local solution for use of the fuel where the benefits of that energy value could be retained in the county.

**Facts and figures**

- Website [www.northacrerrc.co.uk](http://www.northacrerrc.co.uk)
- The plant handles 60,000 tonnes of household waste each year, around 240-250 tonnes of waste per day (Monday-Friday). When processed (averages) per year are:
  - 28,200 tonnes of solid recovered fuel (SRF)
  - Equivalent of 20,000 tonnes lost through drying
  - 1,800 tonnes of recyclable materials recovered
  - 10,000 tonnes of bio-stabilised residue to landfill
- The Northacre RRC created 12 new jobs, which vary from cleaning contracts to specialist skilled trades.
- The plant took nearly eight years in planning, eighteen months and £24million to construct, just over 10 months to commission
- Used 13,500 tonnes of concrete in its construction
- The facility uses 2 megawatts of power
- 350 kilowatts of photovoltaic panels are to be installed on the roof in 2014
- This plant is the first and only mechanical biological treatment plant in Wiltshire
- It is one of only two in the West Country (the other is at Avonmouth, Bristol)
- It uses only air and natural microbes found within waste to bring about the decomposition process i.e. no chemicals are used
- By diverting waste away from landfill it will save Wiltshire Council money on landfill tax (currently £72 per tonne and rising £80 per tonne in April 2014)



**Notes for editors**

Hills Waste Solutions offers a range of specialist waste management and recycling services to both the public and private sector. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas to become one of the region's largest providers of waste solutions. Hills Waste Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900. [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

**Media contact:**

Monique Hayes, Communications Officer, The Hills Group Limited

Tel: 01672 518941 [monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk)



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