

Viridor secures £548,000 grant for pilot project to extract water from landfill leachate

Viridor and a UK water purification company have secured government support to pursue a pilot project which will demonstrate how to harness landfill gas energy as part of a process to extract pure water from the leachate produced at a Devon landfill site.

Viridor and Newbury-based LAT Water have successfully secured a £548,000 grant from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator, managed by the Carbon Trust, for a 21-month pilot project at Viridor's Broadpath Landfill site in Tiverton, near Exeter, in Devon.

The project will use low grade heat from Viridor's landfill gas engines at ambient pressure to concentrate the leachate and extract the water, achieving environmental benefits in retaining the water resource while reducing CO₂ emissions by a potential 80% reduction in tankering requirements.

Terry Murphy, Viridor Technology and Innovation Forum Chairman and Landfill Director, said: "Viridor is proud of the fact that our modern, engineered landfill sites are designed to extract landfill gas which can be transformed to create electricity.

"To have the potential to take this process even further and harness heat from the landfill gas process and use it to take pure water from leachate is an innovative solution and Viridor is enthusiastic to pursue through this pilot project. Viridor is pleased to be working with LAT Water on this process at the Broadpath Landfill site."

Mr Murphy said Viridor was committed to transforming waste to create resources and the leachate treatment pilot project being undertaken at Broadpath was an example of this commitment.

The sustainability potential of treating leachate on site would also not only significantly reduce costs but also impact positively on the road miles associated with tankering this material away from landfill sites.

LAT Water Chairman Peter Champness said: "I am excited that we have won further government support to LAT Water's commitment to develop innovative sustainable low energy cost solutions to the growing challenge of managing complex Industrial waste."

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NOTES TO EDITORS**VIRIDOR**

- Part of the FTSE 250 Pennon Group, every day Viridor takes what British homes and businesses throw away and transforms it into essential quality materials, resources and energy for customers across the UK and globally.
- Viridor works in partnership with more than 150 local authority and major corporate clients with 32,000 customers across the UK. The company has the UK's largest network of 300+ advanced recycling, energy recovery and landfill diversion facilities with 600 waste collection vehicles securing materials for our network of assets.
- Viridor embodies the circular economy, managing seven million tonnes of recyclates and resources each year with 1.4 million tonnes of recyclate traded.
- It has specialist glass recycling facilities at Newhouse in Scotland and in Sheffield, England, with a plastic recycling facility in Rochester, Kent, and a plastic reprocessing plant in Skelmersdale, Lancashire.
- The company has eight energy recovery facilities (ERFs) in operation, three in commissioning and a fourth under construction across the UK city-regions.
- Viridor is one of the UK's largest independent power generators from waste with 274 megawatts (MW) of operating capacity from ERFs, anaerobic digestion, solar and landfill gas (including joint ventures) at 31 March 2018. Viridor exported 1.5 terawatt hours of power during the year.
- In 2018/19, Viridor ERFs will receive 2.9 million tonnes of residual waste (including joint venture facilities), producing 242MW electricity, enough to power 400,000 homes (a city the size of Birmingham). Once the total committed ERF portfolio is completed in 2020/21 they will receive 3.2 million tonnes of black bin waste and provide 276MW of energy generation capacity.
- Viridor makes a substantial contribution to the green economy through investment in people and skills, employing more than 3,000 people.
- The company leads technology and innovation in the sector, investing in progressive opportunities such as the Department for business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) sponsored Viridor and Highview Power energy storage project located at Pilsworth Landfill site.
- Viridor has 11 educational centres which received 17,496 visitors in the year ending 31 March 2018.
- It is a founding signatory to the UK Plastics Pact, which aims to create a circular economy for plastics, a leading member of the Green Alliance Circular Economy Task Force and the Slave-Free Alliance and the All-Party Sustainable Resources Group.

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