

## News Release

A project to change the way Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Councils dispose of residents' food and green waste has entered its next stage.

The HoV Organics Project is made up of representatives from the three local councils who are working together to look at the options to stop food and garden waste being sent to landfill.

Their work will help the councils meet recycling targets set by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Today, Councillor Keith Barnes, chairman of the joint committee and Blaenau Gwent Council's Executive Member for the Environment, revealed that the project has completed the 'Invitation to Submit Outline Solutions' stage of the procurement process for a long term contract to deal with food and green waste.

Eight participants were invited to the 'Submit Outline Solutions' stage and five submitted outline solutions for evaluation by the Project.

The three highest scoring participants are now invited through to the 'Detailed Solutions' stage of the procurement process which will begin in the next couple of weeks and come to an end this summer.

The three participants invited to submit detailed solutions are New Earth Solutions Group, Shanks Waste Management Limited and Viridor Waste Management Limited.

The councils aim to reach the preferred bidder stage in May 2012 – at this stage they will know the sites and technologies to be used.

Councillor Barnes said: "The project has undertaken a broad evaluation of the solutions received.

"This included the technical solution, service delivery, environmental impacts and planning of their solutions.

"We need to ensure that remaining participants are able to meet the requirements of the local councils and achieve the relevant Environment Agency standards in order to help us all meet targets set out by the Welsh Assembly Government."

The procurement is being undertaken via competitive dialogue procedure in three stages which are: Invitation to Submit Outline Solutions (ISOS), Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) and Call for Final Tenders (CFT).

For more information visit [www.hovwasteprogramme.org.uk](http://www.hovwasteprogramme.org.uk).