

For immediate release (December 12)

PROSIECT GWYRDD

PRESS RELEASE/DATGANIAD I'R WASG

TURNING A PROBLEM INTO A RESOURCE

Viridor and Veolia compete for Prosiect Gwyrdd contract

Prosiect Gwyrdd is pleased to confirm that both Viridor and Veolia will be invited to submit a Final Tender for the Prosiect Gwyrdd waste contract.

The Project was due to de-select one company at this procurement stage, moving from three companies to two, however Covanta Energy Ltd withdrew from the procurement process in late October, two months prior to the short listing decision.

Cllr Mark Stephens, Chair of the Joint Committee, governing the Project, said: 'The two bids, which have passed the necessary requirements of the evaluation, are strong and credible. The process is very competitive and is designed to deliver a sustainable solution to the remaining waste, after significant front end recycling and composting takes place through local authority schemes.'

He continued: 'Local authorities are investing significantly in both recycling and composting collections and education to minimise and recycle waste. It is very important that the public use the recycling and composting facilities provided, so the various waste types can be diverted for reuse at the kerbside. Local authority partnerships are also carrying out a separate procurement for organic waste, with food and garden waste diverted separately for waste treatment, through either in vessel composting or Anaerobic Digestion.'

'The message from the European Union and National Government is clear, landfill is the least desired option. Each of the partners is committed to meet the legally binding recycling and composting targets set by the Welsh Government.'

'For the waste that cannot viably be recycled or composted, the market has brought forward highly efficient modern energy from waste systems. These facilities are sustainable, strictly regulated and are common place in many parts of Europe and Scandinavia using proven technology which is tried, tested and safe.'

Following agreement from the Joint Committee, the Project will now issue the Call for Final Tender documents to both companies and further dialogue will take place in the New Year. It is expected that a Preferred Bidder for the Project will be identified in autumn 2012.

The Welsh Government has set out the Towards Zero Waste Strategy and actively supports local authority residual waste partnerships in Wales. The Welsh Government will continue to support these partnerships, so that a sustainable solution is delivered to waste which cannot be viably recycled or composted.

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Notes to Editors

Procurement, funding and waste flows

- Broadcast interviews are available. To bid for an interview, please contact the number below.
- The Joint Committee approved for the Project to issue the Invitation to Submit Final Tenders documentation on 12th December, giving approval to notify the Participants and the public on 13th December.

Public events will be made available in all 5 partner authorities in January/February 2012.

1. Saturday 07 January – Roadshow at St Augustine’s Parish Hall, Penarth – 10 am till 1.30 pm
 2. Saturday 14 January – Roadshow at the Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay – 10 am till 2 pm
 3. Saturday 21 January - Roadshow at Llanwern Village Hall – 10 till 2 pm
 4. Saturday 28 January – Roadshow at Caldicot Leisure Centre – 10 till 2 pm
 5. Saturday 04 February – Risca Palace Library – 10 am till 2 pm
- Funding has been secured from the Welsh Government (WG) through the Outline Business Case (OBC) and following approval of the Final Business Case will contribute 25% towards the future gate fee of the facility.
 - The extra funding for Prosiect Gwyrdd will be up to a maximum of £9.124m in a full year of operation depending upon approval of the final business case for the project. The level of grant awarded for Prosiect Gwyrdd is based on a projection of the estimated cost of providing the facility and will vary in line with the actual costs when the Final Business case is approved. The actual calculation must remain commercially confidential as the project is undergoing a commercial tender process. Funding has been secured from WAG through the Outline Business Case (OBC) and will contribute 25% of the future gate fee.
 - ‘Waste Arisings’ that make up ‘residual waste’ have been analysed in 2003, June 2009 and November 2009 by AEA Technology. The research in 2003 was used to compose data for the Outline Business Case for Cardiff, Monmouthshire and Vale of Glamorgan, while specific composition data was available for Caerphilly and Newport. WAG commissioned AEA technology to carry out further research in June 2009 and November of 2009. This new research will be evaluated to inform the procurement and participants of the quantity and composition of ‘residual waste’. The prediction of accurate waste flow tonnages over the contract term is critical to the success of the Project and will continue to be reviewed until a Guaranteed Minimum Payment is agreed with the Preferred Bidder at the end of the procurement.

Recycling and composting

- The following waste targets have been set in law by the Welsh Government.

2009/10 - 40% combined recycling and composting
2012/13 - 52% combined recycling and composting
2015/16 - 58% combined recycling and composting
2019/20 - 64% combined recycling and composting
2019/20 – 10% maximum to be disposed to landfill
2024/25 – Minimum of 70% combined recycling and composting
2024/25 – 5 % maximum to be disposed to landfill.

- The combined recycling and composting rates for the 5 partner authorities from April/June 2011 (provisional) are:

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Caerphilly: 57.1
Cardiff: 45.7
Monmouthshire: 54.8
Newport: 47.6
Vale of Glamorgan: 49.5

Stakeholder consultation

- Stakeholder days and surveys were conducted between September and December 2009 to engage with key stakeholders on the Evaluation Criteria. Specific issues were discussed and assessed seeking views on the priorities of technical, social, financial and legal aspects of the Evaluation Criteria. Using this data a postal survey was devised and issued to 25 000 properties across the partner authority areas. This data was then submitted to the Joint Committee to consider when agreeing the evaluation methodology.

Regulation and research into health effects of Municipal Waste Incinerators

- The Environment Agency regulates all energy from waste facilities, and information on the process of this regulation can be downloaded from their website, www.environmentagency.co.uk
- All waste processes which involve burning have to comply with the Waste Incineration Directive (WID). This law sets stringent controls on emissions of all types of energy from waste technologies, including Pyrolysis, Gasification and Energy from Waste with Combined Heat and Power (Incineration). These technologies are required to monitor emissions to ensure that they comply, as a minimum, with the limits in the EU Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) which sets strict emissions controls for pollutants. The Directive has been implemented in England and Wales by the Environmental Permitting (EP) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. From April 2008 these replaced the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000'. The guidance on this legislation can be viewed through the following link: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/industrial/eu-international/wid/>
- The Health Protection Agency published two reports in September 2009 and February 2010, addressing the health effects of municipal waste incineration. The reports can be viewed through the following link: <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/prosiectgwyrd/pdfs/RCE-13%20for%20web%20with%20security.pdf>
- The comparative impacts on health on different methods of waste disposal have been considered in detail in a report prepared for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra 2004). A summary of this extensive research can be reviewed through the following link: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/statistics/documents/health-report.pdf>
- This research, 'The Review of the Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management Municipal Solid Waste and Similar Wastes', considered 23 high quality studies of the patterns of disease around EFW plants and four peer review papers looking at the health effects of EFW plants. It concluded that there is no convincing link between EFW plants and adverse effects on public health.

(Ends)

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