

**Strict Embargo until November 24
2009.**



PROSIECT GWYRDD

PRESS RELEASE/DATGANIAD I'R WASG

TURNING A PROBLEM INTO A RESOURCE PROSIECT GWYRDD MOVES FORWARD TO PROCUREMENT

As waste management continues to change in the UK, five local authorities in South East Wales, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Monmouthshire, Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan have joined together as, 'Prosiect Gwyrdd' to deliver a solution to waste after recycling and composting has been maximised in each area. Each of the partners has been given permission by each Council to advertise the requirements of the partnership to the market.

The OJEU notice, which outlines the requirements, has been sent out to the market, marking the beginning of a complex procurement process.

Each local authority is committed to reducing, reusing, recycling and composting as much waste as possible, striving towards the challenging targets set by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG).

It is recognised that around 30%-35% of waste will be left, after recycling and composting targets are met and a solution has to be found to treat this remaining waste, to minimise the amount buried in landfill.

The partnership is technology neutral and will look at all technologies that may be proposed for the contract. The partnership is aware of a number of companies offering different technical solutions that are interested in this contract.

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All bids made will be assessed against agreed criteria, involving environmental impacts, sustainability, service delivery, cost and value for money.

Options include further sorting processes, drying and shredding waste to make a fuel that can be burned efficiently to generate energy, steaming waste at high temperatures to recover materials, gasifying waste and utilising the gas to efficiently create energy, anaerobic digestion or a number of other efficient options to burn waste at various temperatures to produce heat and electricity.

As agreed in the report to each Council, the partnership is governed by a Joint Committee, consisting of two Councillors from each Cabinet or Executive in each authority. The Joint Committee will also govern the project through the 'Competitive Dialogue' process and the final decision to appoint a contractor will go back to each Council.

Each bidder will be allowed to submit a maximum of two proposals to be assessed they may be different by type of technology, site location or size.

As explained in the OJEU notice, the partnership will be exploring with bidders the options and opportunities of local third party waste in the 'Competitive Dialogue' process relating to potential financial benefits to the tax payer.

A Joint Scrutiny function will be set up and financed independently by each of the authority's scrutiny departments to monitor the procurement as the project progresses. This process is expected to engage with stakeholders and interest groups.

A website has been developed – www.prosiectgwyrdd.co.uk - to inform the

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public and key stakeholders of the aims and options available. A Regional Focus Group is being set up to engage with selected residents across the region.

The website will continue to be updated, road shows will be held in each Council area, newsletters sent to identified stakeholders, the media will be kept updated regularly and internal communications briefings will be given for staff and Councillors across the 5 authorities.

Councillor Mark Stevens, Chair of the Joint Committee for Prosiect Gwyrdd, said: "Everybody produces waste and everybody needs to continue to take responsibility to reduce, reuse and recycle as much of their waste as possible and further improve on the great strides Wales, has taken in achieving the recent 41% recycling and composting. Each of the partner Councils continues to implement sustainable strategies to maximise recycling and composting, optimise waste as a resource to achieve the 70% targets, however a solution has to be found for the remaining waste.

"The European Journal advertisement confirms the commencement of a project that will deliver a sustainable, beneficial solution to the remaining waste and is set to be the biggest collaboration between the public and private sector in Welsh history. The Partnership will deliver a low carbon impact solution to waste after recycling and composting has been maximised, minimising waste to landfill, obtain maximum value from waste as a resource and provide best value to the tax payer."

Welsh Assembly Government Environment Minister Jane Davidson said:

"As we aim for zero landfill, recycling and the treatment of source separated food waste remain a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Unfortunately some wastes cannot be recycled and where that is the case it

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makes more sense to recover energy from them rather than landfilling them.

"We have tough European targets and Prosiect Gwyrdd will help contribute towards our goal of zero landfill. By 2010, no more than 75% of the amount of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995 can be land filled. By 2013 only 50% can be land filled and by 2020 only 35% can be landfilled."

Notes to Editors:

- Broadcast interviews are available on November 24 between 12 noon and 2 pm in both English and Welsh. Please contact the number below to make a bid for an interview.
- A website has been developed to inform the public about the options available. Please visit www.prosiectgwyrdd.co.uk and address any questions to info@prosiectgwyrdd.co.uk
- The following waste targets have been set by WAG.

2009/10 - 40% (of which 15% is composting, not food specific)

2012/13 - 52% (of which 12% is a food specific target)

2015/16 - 58% (of which 14% is a food specific target)

2019/20 - 64% (of which 16% is a food specific target)

2019/20 – 10% maximum to be disposed to landfill

2024/25 – 65/70% (of which 18% is a food specific target)

2024/25 – 5 % maximum to be disposed to landfill

150kg maximum residual waste per person per annum by 2024/25

- Funding has been secured from WAG through the Outline Business Case (OBC) and will contribute 25% of the future gate fee.
- 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 will be subject to a commercial tender process.
- The report for each Council's Executive/Cabinet and Full Council to give permission for the project to move forward to procurement was approved on the following dates:

Caerphilly Cabinet - June 21, Full Council - July 28 2009

Cardiff Executive - June 11, Full Council - June 25 2009

Monmouthshire Cabinet - June 3, Full Council - July 30 2009

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Newport Cabinet – May 26, Full Council – June 29 2009
Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet – June 3, Full Council – June 30 2009

- The procurement of this project is expected to take 2 years. The forward plan is summarised below:

OJEU advertised to the market – November 2009
Prequalification Questionnaire –Spring 2010
Dialogue with bidders – Spring 2010 till Summer 2011
Preferred bidder – Autumn 2011
Contract finalised and planning –2012

- A stakeholder day was held in September to engage with key stakeholders on the approach to the Evaluation Criteria. Specific issues were discussed with the group, discussing priorities of technical, social, financial and legal aspects of the Evaluation Criteria.
- ‘Waste Arisings’ that make up ‘residual waste’ have been analysed in both 2003 and June 2009 by AEA Technology. The research in 2003 was used to compose data for the OBC 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. This new research will be assessed against the data and assumptions used for the OBC to provide the quantity and composition of ‘residual waste’ for the procurement. Appendix A shows a briefing of the ‘Waste Arisings’.
- Prosiect Gwyrdd expects to provide an optional site at Tatton Road in Newport, for bidders to consider alongside their own sites as part of their proposals. This optional site will increase competition in the market, to provide an alternative option for those bidders who may not have the benefit of a secured site in their control. Appendix b shows how the site was identified and appendix c shows the area and boundaries of the site. Any site used, whether the bidders’ site or the optional site, will be subject to obtaining the necessary statutory consents including planning and operational permitting.

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