

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Assembly Members
National Assembly for Wales

5th November 2014

I made a commitment in Plenary on 22 October 2014 to update Assembly Members about the Welsh Government's municipal food waste infrastructure procurement programme.

The Welsh Government is supporting a programme of seven local authority anaerobic digestion (AD) projects, working in regional partnerships, to help address the affordability of sustainable food waste treatment infrastructure.

The programme is supporting 20 local authorities, working in seven regional procurement "hubs", towards recycling 70% of municipal waste by 2025.

Four of the partnerships have awarded contracts, with the fifth due to award in early 2015.

Two AD plants have been built and are fully operating in north Wales (near Penygroes and St Asaph respectively). A third is being built near Aberdare, and is on target to be operating in July 2015. The Central Wales hub's food waste is being treated on a merchant basis in Oxfordshire, as this proved the optimum environmental and financial solution from the bids submitted.

In terms of current work, the Cardiff procurement, which includes the Vale of Glamorgan, is at the final business case stage for a planned AD facility at Tremorfa, Cardiff. The Welsh Government is working with two hubs (Heads of the Valleys and South West Wales) to start new fast-track procurements, following the withdrawal, in March, of the bidder for both hub's previous projects.

Overall, the programme will treat c. 150,000 tonnes of household food waste per year and is expected to generate 7MW of renewable electricity, enough to supply 6,000 households.

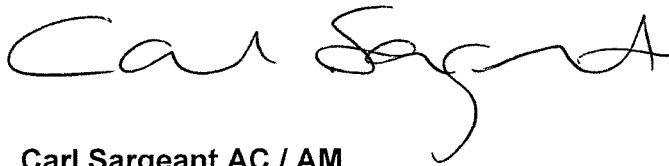
Nutrient-rich digestate, an output from the process, is being used by local farmers. The GwyrAD facility (near Penygroes) has recently achieved PAS110 accreditation for its digestate quality.

The programme is contributing to Green Growth targets with local construction, operation and haulage jobs being created, for example, each AD project creates c. 15 construction jobs and 3 full time equivalent jobs during operation.

Welsh Government savings on future costs of £4.94m have already been achieved on the first four food waste contracts to be awarded.

Neither Wrexham nor Anglesey is participating in the programme as each authority has existing food waste treatment facilities in place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Sargeant', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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