

WILTON ENERGY FROM WASTE PLANT OFFICIALLY OPENED



Left to right: David Palmer-Jones, CEO Suez recycling and recovery U; Councillor Tony Concepcion, Deputy Chair, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA); Nomi Ahmad, Head of Sembcorp's UK business and Carl Beer, CEO of MRWA.

The Wilton 11 energy from waste plant has been officially opened in a special ceremony at the Wilton International site.

The £250 million plant – a joint venture between Sembcorp, waste management firm Suez and the Japanese investment firm ITOCHU - has been in full operation for more than a year and is capable of delivering around 50MW of power and 165 tonnes of steam to Sembcorp for the benefit of site customers.

Built on time and on budget, it takes around 440,000 tonnes of household residual waste from the boroughs of Liverpool and Halton in north-west England for use as fuel in the plant's boilers. The waste would otherwise have been sent to landfill at a cost to the council tax payers of both boroughs.

The two rail movements per day from Knowsley to Wilton not only prevent the need for up to 1,000 heavy goods vehicle movements a year across the Pennines but also breathes new life into Wilton's extensive rail infrastructure.

The process in its entirety leads to a saving of around 127,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide versus less sustainable fossil fuel energy production.

Councillor Tony Concepcion, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) Deputy Chair, said: "We'd like to thank Suez, Sembcorp and all of the many other partners, contractors and sub-contractors who have contributed to getting us to this point."

"It's been a long process for the Authority to ensure that this facility and the contract for Merseyside and Halton's waste are both value for money and the most sustainable option for our taxpayers for many years to come. "

David Palmer-Jones, CEO of SUEZ recycling and recovery UK, said: "Partnership and cooperation have created a firm foundation and an innovative solution for MRWA's residual waste.

"Huge complex infrastructure projects like the Wilton energy from waste facility require the skills and dedication of many people to make them a reality, but equally the vision of politicians who are entrusted by their constituents to provide long term stable solutions for the waste generated."

Nomi Ahmad, Head of Sembcorp's UK utilities business, said: "Wilton 11 is a plant that embodies everything that is good about why firms should invest in Teesside.

"It is a testament to the "can do" attitude of the people of this area and delivers not just what our existing and future customers need – reliable supplies of low carbon power and steam - but also what society needs - the sustainable re-use of a former waste product as a sustainable fuel for power generation."

- Ends

The picture below shows Mr Palmer-Jones (second right) with many of the attendees at the opening ceremony planting a tree marking the opening of the the station, which will take waste supplied by the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority for the next 25 years.

