

# Canford LowCEF - Community Newsletter

November 2012

## Welcome to the New Earth Energy Newsletter!

New Earth is preparing a planning application for the addition of a low-carbon renewable energy facility adjacent to its existing composting facility at Canford in Poole. New Earth would like to thank all those who took the time to attend the community engagement events and complete and return the feedback questionnaires. For those who were unable to attend but would like to find out more information about the development proposals, a downloadable information booklet is available at [www.newearthsolutions.co.uk/canford](http://www.newearthsolutions.co.uk/canford).

Further information on the community engagement undertaken can also be found within the Community Engagement Statement that will be submitted as part of the planning application.



## Key benefits of the proposed LowCEF

The proposed Low-Carbon Energy Facility will utilise a feedstock derived from waste, that cannot readily be recovered for recycling or composted in the available time frame. New Earth currently treat waste arising from local households under contracts with Bournemouth Borough and Dorset County Council. The proposed facility will therefore complete the treatment loop enabling the sub-region to become more self-sufficient and retain the value arising from energy generation in terms of job creation, investment, business rates and local economic resilience.

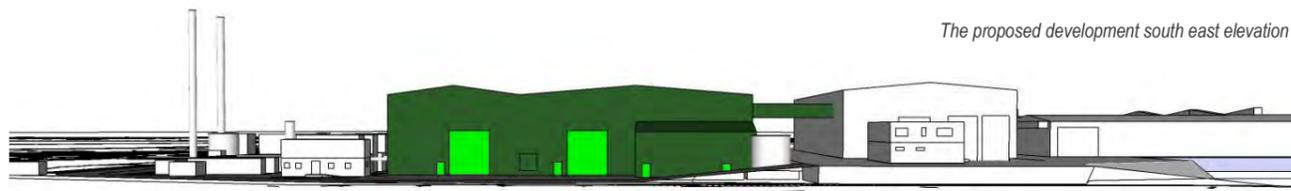
- The proposed technology will complement the established enclosed composting facility and the recycling activities undertaken there
- The proposed facility would reduce HGV movements in combination with the existing enclosed composting facility
- The proposed facility would generate up to 10MW of electricity for export to the local distribution grid, enough to power nearly 23,000 homes
- At least 50% of the electricity will be classified as renewable, displacing over 32,000t of CO2 per annum and contributing towards local renewable energy targets
- The proposed facility will generate electricity and heat 24/7, complementing more intermittent forms of renewable energy such as wind and tidal



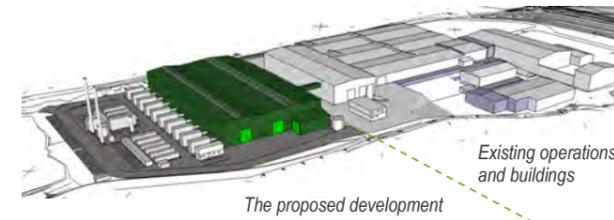
## Broadstone, Merley and Bearwood Area Committee meeting

New Earth delivered a brief presentation on the proposals to the Area Committee on 17th September. The presentation and opportunity to pose questions directly to New Earth staff was welcomed by the ward Councillors and residents who attended. There was general support for the development.

Copies of the information leaflet and feedback questionnaires were also provided for attendees to take. A broad range of questions and comments were received. We were able to answer almost all of the questions there and then, but there were a couple which we agreed to report back on. All questions were recorded, together with the response and will be set out in the Community Engagement Statement that will be submitted as part of the planning application.



The proposed development south east elevation



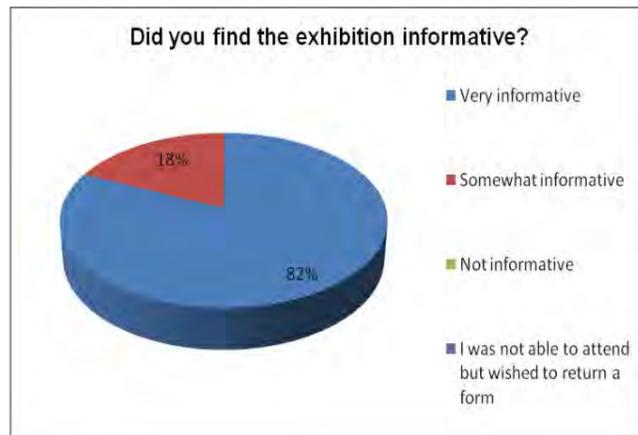
The proposed development

## Public exhibitions - Canford Magna and Bearwood

New Earth held public exhibitions at the Canford Magna Centre on 13th September and the Bearwood Community Centre on 15th September. The exhibitions were open to all members of the local community, and were timed to allow visitor attendance during the day, as well as outside of standard weekday working hours.

An eight page leaflet summarising the content of the exhibitions was also produced so that it could be taken away for further consideration and wider circulation. Feedback questionnaires were also provided in order for attendees to comment on the proposals as well as the exhibitions themselves and the information provided.

The information provided by New Earth was well received and the response to the proposals generally positive. Analysis of the feedback questionnaire responses received stated that 82% of attendees found the exhibition 'Very informative'.



## Summary of key issues

The key issues and questions raised by the local community through the public events included:

- Concern surrounding the impact of the emissions on the surrounding communities and natural environment;
- The potential for hazardous waste to be processed and the potential issues regarding subsequent emissions;
- The level of traffic on Magna Road, and what impact the proposed development would have;
- The potential for noise and the negative impact on local communities (especially downwind);
- The potential for odour, and the negative impact on local communities (especially downwind);
- Concerns regarding the pace of development in north Poole (Poole Town FC and B2 development);
- Confusion regarding New Earth's advanced thermal conversion proposal at Canford and the difference compared to mass burn incineration schemes;
- Details on how the electricity generated will be connected to the supply network;
- Whether there was potential to hold a community site visit to the existing composting facility;
- Query why Poole's waste cannot be processed at this facility.

A large number of specific questions were also raised during the consultation process. These were noted in order for New Earth to provide appropriate responses as part of the Planning Application submission. A wide range of technical assessments and reports are to be submitted in support of the planning application. The information provided within these answers many of the questions raised. Appendix 2 of the Community Engagement Statement, that will be submitted in support of the planning application, will outline all of these questions along with responses and information regarding where further information can be found within the technical assessments. Once the application is submitted, all supporting documentation will be viewable electronically via [www.boroughofpoole.com](http://www.boroughofpoole.com) and at the Council offices.

## An update on the progression of the technical assessments

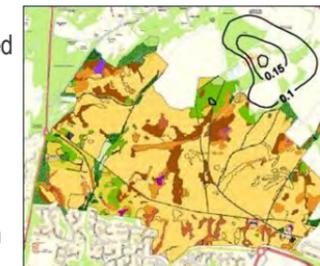
A wide range of technical assessments are being submitted as part of the planning application. These assessments will form the supporting Environmental Statement. New Earth Solutions have been working with environmental consultants RPS to undertake this work. The findings from the assessments undertaken have informed the design of the proposed facility. The Environmental Report will include the following technical assessments:

### Air quality

Air quality modelling has been undertaken to assess the potential impact of emissions from the two stacks on human health and ecological receptors. The modelling has informed:

- The optimum height of the two proposed stacks, taking into account prevailing weather conditions, topography and plant – in this case a height of 35m is recommended.
- An assessment of the potential dispersion and impacts.

The assessment quickly discerned that there would be no significant impacts upon human health. Nearby ecological receptors, particularly the neighbouring heath land habitat, are particularly sensitive to nitrogen emissions which can accumulate over time. A precautionary approach has been taken at all stages of the assessment and opportunities to reduce emission levels and aid dispersion taken. This includes covering the existing bio-filters associated with New Earth's composting facility. The impact on ecology is covered within its own technical assessment, as detailed below. Notwithstanding the planning process, the proposed facility will also require an Environmental Permit to operate.



Air dispersion contour maps relative to habitat character areas on Canford Heath

### Noise

A noise assessment has been undertaken in order to identify noise generating activities and assess the impact on the occupants of houses, local businesses and ecological sites. The nearest house would be over 550m from the proposed facility. Predicted noise has been set against existing background noise levels and assessment made for both day and night. The assessment confirms that there would be no significant adverse noise impacts arising from the proposed facility. The assessment did however recommend housing the fans within an acoustic enclosure to improve attenuation; a measure New Earth is happy to take forward.

### Ecology

As previously reported, a phase 1 extended habitats survey has been undertaken. It confirmed that the application site is of limited ecological value. New Earth also commissioned the Bryan Edwards

of Dorset Environmental Records Centre to resurvey Lichens, Bryophytes and Epiphytes on Canford Heath which can be a useful indicator of air quality. This showed no discernible change from the original 2009 survey.

Canford Heath is part of the designated Dorset Heathlands SPA SAC (a site of European nature conservation importance). Heath land habitats are known to be sensitive to nitrogen emissions and the potential impact of the emissions have been assessed in detail. The operation of the proposed LowCEF would not have a significant adverse impact upon the integrity of the designated Heath Land. The ecological assessment will be presented in the Environmental Statement accompanying the Planning Application. With respect to potential impact upon Canford Heath a shadow Appropriate Assessment screening will be submitted.

### Landscape and visual impact assessment

A landscape and visual impact assessment has been undertaken to assess the impact from 11 representative view points (three of which are supported with photomontages), as well as the potential impact on landscape character and townscape character. The low level and enclosed nature of the application site afford only limited views of the proposed buildings and external plant. The two stacks will be the most visible feature. The visual impacts range from negligible to moderate. No significant effects on landscape or townscape character have been identified. The assessment did however recommend that the colour of the stacks graduate from dark to light grey in order to blend with the backdrop; a measure New Earth is happy to take forward.

### Drainage and flood risk

A drainage and flood risk assessment has been undertaken. This demonstrates that the risk of flooding is low and that the proposed drainage system is capable of handling and attenuating storm water events. This assessment will accompany the planning application.

### Transportation

Owing to the fact that the proposed facility will lead to a net decrease in HGV movements, when considered in combination with the adjacent fully enclosed composting facility, means traffic movements will not be a significant issue. Nonetheless a Transport Statement will accompany the planning application to describe the nature and frequency of any associated vehicle movements.

### Planning application timeframes

New Earth Energy is on track to submit the planning application and supporting Environmental Statement to Borough of Poole in mid November. Once the application is registered, the full planning application and supporting Environmental Statement will be available to view on the Borough of Poole's website or at the Council offices. The Borough of Poole will also undertake further public consultation on the planning application.

## Opportunity to visit New Earth's Canford site

In response to numerous requests made during the public consultation, New Earth will be holding a community site visit to its existing enclosed composting facility on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012, 14:00 – 16:00. The visit will allow members of the local community to develop a better understanding of New Earth's current operations as well as understand how the proposed LowCEF would operate in conjunction with the existing facility.

If you wish to attend please respond to Jacky Chissell by 17:00 on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Please note this is an operational facility, and numbers will be limited for health and safety reasons. Please make us aware of any mobility impairments when booking.

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## New Earth News - two cabinet ministers visit Canford facility



Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles visited New Earth's Canford facility in August to see how the company handles Bournemouth's residual household waste. Accompanied by officers and members of Bournemouth Council, Mr Pickles heard about the successful long-standing partnership between New Earth and the Council and the benefits of mechanical biological treatment, of which he is a keen advocate.

This is the second Cabinet Minister to visit New Earth recently. In July, Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, also visited Canford to see the energy recovery demonstration unit in action. There is keen interest in New Earth's technology as the UK moves towards an EU target for

renewable energy generation of 15% of total energy usage from renewable resources by 2020. New Earth explained to Dr Cable that the energy plant has a 90% UK-based supply chain and offers significant export potential for the future.

Dr Cable remarked, "It is very encouraging to see projects such as New Earth's renewable energy recovery plant being developed. The quality of innovation I have seen here – and the potential it offers UK plc – provides encouraging evidence that the entrepreneurial spirit we need to re-build our economy is thriving in this part of Dorset."

### Contact Details:

If you require any further information, you can contact the Borough of Poole and ourselves by contacting:

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The logo for New Earth Solutions, featuring the words "newEARTH" in a bold, sans-serif font with "new" in lowercase and "EARTH" in uppercase. Below this, the word "SOLUTIONS" is written in a smaller, spaced-out, uppercase font. The entire logo is set against a white background with a grey border.

Or contact us by email:  
[canford@newearthgroup.co.uk](mailto:canford@newearthgroup.co.uk)

There is also a dedicated website for the proposed low carbon energy facility at Canford:  
[www.newearthsolutions.co.uk/canford](http://www.newearthsolutions.co.uk/canford).