Why we need to act now to tackle the local waste challenge

Dear Local Resident,

As someone who has lived in the Parley area for most of my life, and with family who have played an extremely active role in supporting the Parley and Ferndown communities for over 70 years, I wanted to take this opportunity to respond to some concerns that have been raised around Eco's recent proposal for a low carbon Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at our Eco Park next to Bournemouth Airport.

Eco has recycled over 3 million tonnes of waste since 1995 and prevented 93,000t of CO_2 emissions in 2020

For those of you who are not aware of Eco, we have been a pioneer in the organic waste industry locally, and have recycled over 3 million tonnes of green garden waste, food and wood waste since the business was started by my father 25 years ago. Today, we even recycle local street sweepings. To date, we have assisted local communities to prevent more than 1.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions by diverting waste from landfill, but we know there is even more we can do.

Over the last few weeks, a number of issues have been raised around Eco's recent proposal for a low carbon Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at our Eco Park next to Bournemouth Airport. Most of these issues are already covered in our detailed plans and supporting documents, which can be found on the Council's planning portal, but we wanted to make sure every issue is addressed and correct some inaccurate assumptions.

A Mythbuster document, along with a copy of this article has been created, to address these in detail, **and can be found through our website (erf.thisiseco.co.uk).**

I am keen to ensure the scale of the waste challenge is understood, **which is why our proposal includes an education centre,** and would like to offer some further insights below, as well as address some key concerns raised here.

Waste reduction and recycling

Our aim is to increase recycling, which this proposal does, by including a front-end sorting facility to remove up to 10,000 tonnes of recyclable materials (including plastics) that may have been thrown away by mistake. The remaining 50,000 tonnes of waste going through the energy recovery (thermal treatment) process will be **waste which simply cannot be recycled** and would otherwise travel ever greater distances to landfill or for energy recovery.

Government figures show the BCP and Dorset Council areas recycle around 60% of their rubbish, one of the highest in the country; however, the local area still landfills 16.8%, around double the national average.

By 2033, we estimate surplus of 180,000t of rubbish locally. Our facility will cater for 60,000t of this

Even after reducing waste by 10% through prevention measures such as avoiding single use plastic and encouraging reuse/refill schemes, and achieving a local recycling rate of 80%, way above the Government's 65% target, by 2033 Dorset and BCP Councils will still be faced with more than 180,000 tonnes of residual waste.

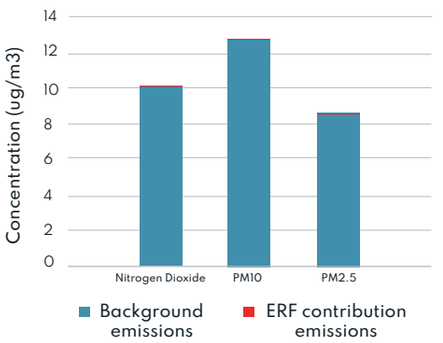
Eco's proposed ERF will ensure one third of this residual waste goes to good use and benefits the local area. Further details can be found in Dorset and BCP's Waste Plan.

Emissions

The need to protect sensitive ecological features has played a fundamental role in the design process and informed Eco's decision to opt for a small-scale ERF utilising technology that will ensure the lowest possible impact on local air quality and the local environment, working closely with Natural England.

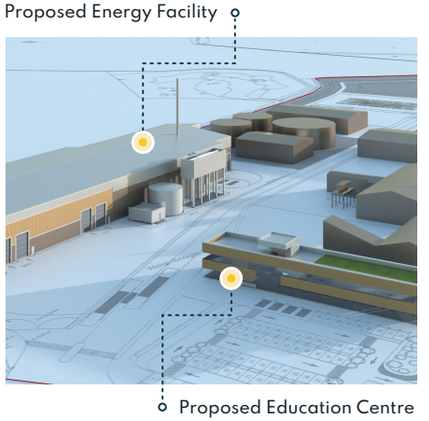
Limiting NOx emissions to less than 1% above background levels

Figure 1: Annual Mean Impact of Proposed ERF at Portfield School



The plans include detailed assessments demonstrating how, for example, nitrogen emissions will be less than 1% above existing background levels at ground level next to the plant (shown in the bar chart above).

By ensuring all emissions are well within existing emission limits and planned regulations, including taking into account existing background emissions from road traffic, the Airport and agriculture, this protects local designated sites, human health and the wider environment.



Traffic

The Transport Assessment indicates that the impacts on the adjoining highway network are below 2%, even at peak times. Peak hour impacts at Chapel Gate are 1.9% (AM peak) and 1.7% (PM peak), whilst peak hour impacts within Christchurch Road and Parley Lane are below 0.5%. The waste will be delivered to the Eco Park in covered vehicles.

Our ERF proposals will reduce HGV 'waste miles' by at least 17,000 miles per month.

I hope this letter is helpful in providing further information and clarifications in respect of the local waste challenge and our proposal. Given the restrictions it's been extremely challenging for us to speak to people, but if you would like any further information, or like to talk to me then please do get in touch through **erfproject@thisiseco.co.uk.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Justin Dampney