

CIWEM Workshop

# Integrating Waste and Wastewater Management: Co-digestion

October 26<sup>th</sup> 2009

SOAS, University of London, Russell Square

The aim of this interactive workshop is to focus on the obstacles to widespread uptake of co-digestion and establish the required policy, regulatory and market-related changes that must be made in order to ensure such uptake can occur and to share views on how best to take forward Defra's AD Implementation Programme.

Sponsors: There is a workshop sponsorship package with details available from CIWEM please contact Lauren Goozee ([lauren@ciwem.org](mailto:lauren@ciwem.org)) or Justin Taberham ([justin@ciwem.org](mailto:justin@ciwem.org)) on 0207 831 3110

Please circulate to colleagues who may be interested

Organised by CMS – Communications and Management for Sustainability in partnership with CIWEM

# Integrating Waste and Wastewater Management: Co-digestion

## October 26<sup>th</sup> 2009

### Introduction

Anaerobic digestion is an established technology for the treatment of sewage sludge by the water industry and a technology that is the subject of increasing interest from the waste management industry. Defra is pushing the technology as one which can produce the multiple benefits of renewable energy in the form of biogas, fertilizer and soil conditioner for agriculture and land use, as well as reducing methane emissions from agriculture and divert organic waste from landfill. It hopes to see the UK as a world leader in anaerobic digestion use and in technology and expertise, by 2020. The ability to co-digest different waste streams is central to delivering widespread anaerobic digestion which can contribute meaningfully towards sustainable waste management and energy production.

Technologically speaking there is great potential to deliver on this vision. Yet there are significant regulatory hurdles that must be overcome before the Government's ambition can become a reality. Defra has stated that the Government "will ensure that the economic and regulatory framework exists in which the market for anaerobic digestion and its products can develop and thrive". Current obstacles include:

- The existence of separate regulatory regimes for digestate produced from sewage sludge and that produced from food waste, so water companies (and others) are inhibited from co-digestion
- The allocation of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) vary considerably for sewage and biowaste, making the allocation of ROCs for mixed feedstock problematic
- The ability to ensure sufficiently homogeneous biodegradable waste feedstock to ensure consistent operation of AD plant
- The ability to secure planning permission for operators of AD plant
- The available land bank available to receive sludge, digestate and compost – would there be sufficient to service a widespread increase in AD?

Despite the obstacles, water utility interest in making better use of its existing AD capacity through co-digestion is growing and local authorities are searching for solutions to ever-growing pressure to divert BMW from landfill. The revised Waste Framework Directive will deliver improvements in the segregation of waste which should improve homogeneity issues. A sister Biowaste Directive could also be forthcoming, which may help to ease regulatory problems. If the potential to deliver on the Government's stated ambitions for AD in the UK is to be realized, the various obstacles must be removed.

The aim of this interactive workshop is to focus on the obstacles to widespread uptake of co-digestion and establish the required policy, regulatory and market-related changes that must be made in order to ensure such uptake can occur and to share views on how best to take forward Defra's AD Implementation Programme.

### Objectives

- To provide a brief overview of the existing regulatory regime and the wider challenges that must be overcome with regard to co-digestion
- To establish a picture of the existing potential for wider scale co-digestion and the level of demand for it as a waste solution
- To debate and decide on the most productive way of taking Defra's Implementation Plan, with production of a clear set of recommendations from delegates at the event
- To establish consensus on the circumstances in which AD represents the optimal waste solution and to identify situations where its use might be sub-optimal.

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Programme

- 13.00 – 13.10 Chairman's introduction, Ken Shapland, Severn Trent Water and CIWEM President
- 13.10 – 13.50 The regulatory perspective, AD task group - Iain Notman, Defra To Be Confirmed  
(20 min presentation and 20 minute Q&A)
- 13.50 – 14.30 Water industry perspective – Ken Shapland, Severn Trent Water  
(20 min presentation and 20 minute Q&A)
- 14.30 – 14.45 Coffee/tea break
- 14.45 – 15.25 Waste Industry Perspective – Chris Hatton, Viridor  
(20 min presentation and 20 minute Q&A)
- 15.25 – 16.05 Panel discussion and concluding remarks by Ken Shapland
- 16.05 Close and refreshments

Output: CIWEM summary of discussions, and recommendations – non attributable

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The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) is an independent professional body and registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environment management for a clean, green and sustainable world. [www.ciwem.org](http://www.ciwem.org)

The Venue: The venue is the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a new, air conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists; there will be ample space to accommodate the anticipated delegate numbers.

Accommodation: There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

The Organisers: The seminar is being organised by Bob Earll of Coastal Management for Sustainability (CMS), in partnership with CIWEM.

Workshop fee:

Workshop fee	£45	VAT £6.75	£51.75
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- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

Conditions:

- Payment may be by cheque, BACS, credit card or online at [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk)
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- Payment should be completed BEFORE the event; otherwise entry may be refused
- Payment is due for all cancellations within ten working days of the meeting. Refunds (less £20 administration charge) will only be issued for cancellation more than ten working days of the meeting; substitutes are permitted.

Further details from Bob Earll: Phone / Fax 01531 890415 Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk) or Email: [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk)

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