
Suffolk energy-from-waste facility

Capacity increase FAQs

What is Suffolk energy-from-waste facility?

Suffolk energy-from-waste facility processes waste left after recycling and composting, under carefully-controlled conditions, to recover energy. In the energy-from-waste process, waste is burned at high temperatures and the heat used to make steam, which drives a turbine to generate electricity. The Suffolk facility uses modern, proven energy-from-waste technology to produce enough electricity to power 30,000 homes (approximately the same number of homes as in Lowestoft).

What are your plans about?

We are applying to amend our planning permission and environmental permit to increase the amount of waste we can accept from a maximum of 269,000 tonnes per year to a maximum of 295,000 tonnes per year.

Why do you want to take in more waste?

Here at Suffolk energy-from-waste facility we are entering our fifth year of putting Suffolk's waste to good use. The facility is performing well and working efficiently, with a good track record in environmental compliance. The amount of waste we can accept is currently limited to 269,000 tonnes per year; due to the facility's efficiency we can process more waste than this, so we are applying to increase this limit to 295,000 tonnes per year. This will allow us to use Suffolk's award-winning facility to its full potential. In addition, the energy content of the waste has been gradually reducing and we expect this trend to continue as more plastics are recycled, meaning we need to process more waste to maintain the level of electricity we provide to the grid.

Where will the waste come from?

The facility can only accept waste from households and businesses within the East of England and the majority of the waste we accept, currently around 75%, comes from Suffolk, with the remainder coming from Norfolk and Essex. The additional waste will continue to come from this area.

Will you be making changes to the building?

No, we don't need to make any alterations to the appearance of the facility.

How will this affect traffic?

Lorry traffic would remain well within the agreed number in the original planning permission (106 trucks per day) and we anticipate that accepting additional waste would result in around an extra eight trucks visiting the facility per day, 95 a day on average compared to the current average of 87 per day, which the local road network can accommodate.



Will this affect recycling?

No, it won't affect recycling as the role of the Suffolk energy-from-waste facility is to take the rubbish left after recycling. Suffolk is one of the best counties in England when it comes to recycling, with residents recycling and composting around 50% of their waste. The County Council remains committed to recycling, having recently approved £6 million of funding for improvements to Suffolk's Recycling Centres. As well as encouraging people to recycle, the County Council waste services team also give practical tips and advice on how people can reduce the amount of waste they have in the first place. For their latest campaigns please see www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk for further information.

Will this increase the emissions from the facility?

Emissions from the facility are tightly controlled and would remain within the limits set out in the facility's existing environmental permit to protect the environment.

How will this benefit the local area?

The Suffolk energy-from-waste facility is a local employer, with 51 staff including two apprentices directly employed by the facility. We work with other local businesses and in the last two years spent over £1.2 million with Suffolk suppliers. The SUEZ Communities Trust provides funding to eligible projects in communities near to our facilities, in the last two years £26,000 has been provided to projects in Suffolk.

How can I find out more information about the plans?

We are holding drop-in information sessions to discuss our proposals and answer any queries, these will include opportunities to take a tour of the facility:

Friday 07 June, 4pm to 8pm

Saturday 08 June, 10am to 2pm

Alternatively, you can email any questions to suffolkefw.uk@suez.com or call 01473 836837.