

Local stakeholder update – June to October 2020

During the period of June to September, work at the Eco Park continued to progress under strict COVID-19 control measures to protect the staff and contractors working on the facility. Below is a summary of the work that has taken during this period and the work planned for October 2020:

JUNE 2020:

- Testing continued on the gasifier. These tests were temporarily paused towards the end of the month to allow for regular cleaning and minor adjustments.
- The AD facility began being slowly brought back to full capacity, gradually increasing the amount of food waste processed over a period of several weeks.
- Landscaping works continued throughout the month, sorting the soils and then using them to shape the contours and form the core of the screening bunds.

JULY 2020:

- Testing of the gasifier resumed and continued throughout the month.
- The AD facility continued to be gradually brought back to full capacity, reaching an intake of approximately 100-120 tonnes of food waste per day.
- Landscaping works were paused to allow for procurement and testing of topsoil.

AUGUST 2020:

- Testing of the gasifier continued throughout the month and minor modifications were made, including the installation of a camera on the gasifier floor and tweaks to the under-bed nozzles.
- Repairs were made to the conveyor chain of the Saxlund bunker, part of the pre-treatment system that feeds waste into the gasifier.
- The AD facility intake was held between 100 and 120 tonnes per day, allowing for adjustments to be made to the water treatment cooling system.
- Landscaping works remained paused to allow for the procurement and testing of topsoil.

SEPTEMBER 2020:

- Testing of the gasifier was paused to allow for adjustments to the cylinders on the walking floor of the Saxlund bunker.
- A temporary chiller was installed and commissioned on the AD facility along with a temporary Shell and Tube Heat Exchanger. Intake was increased to 300 tonnes per day.
- Landscaping works remained paused while alternative sources of topsoil were considered.

OCTOBER 2020:

- Commissioning tests on the gasifier will continue throughout the month.

- Following a condition survey of the conveyors used in the pre-treatment system, hairline fractures on one of the chains were identified. These will be repaired and an auto-oiler system will be installed to reduce wear and tear moving forward.
- Additional modifications will begin on the AD plant in order to further prevent grit build up, optimise plastic separation, increase the effluent treatment capacity and provide a permanent cooling solution to the water treatment system. This work will take place throughout autumn and food waste throughput will gradually increase as elements of the works are completed.
- Subject to procurement, spreading of topsoil across the Environmental Enhancement Area will commence at the end of the month, preparing the area for planting.
- Appropriate COVID-19 control measures will remain in place throughout the period and will adapt based on government and local guidance.