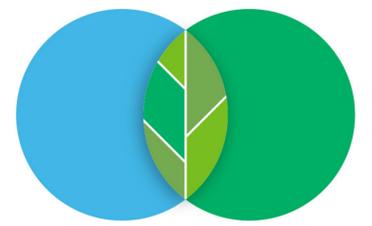


Benefits



Lea Bank Energy Park

Heat and Power

It is proposed that the Lea Bank Energy Park would import up to 500,000 tonnes of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) or similar residual waste per annum. Residual waste is defined as non hazardous, combustible mixed waste which remains after recycling activities. The fuel would be effectively and efficiently dealt with by means of a modern and proven industrial moving grate combustion technology which would have the ability to generate up to 49.99MW of electricity and up to 50MW of heat. The exact split of electricity and heat generated by the CHP facility would depend upon the heat demands of the end users and the grade of heat required. 49.99MW is enough electricity to power approximately 60,000 homes, although between 4-6MW of the power would be used to run the CHP facility

Increased Efficiency

The location of this CHP facility, in close proximity to Luton Airport and other existing and proposed developments would provide an excellent opportunity to supply renewable heat and power whilst reducing the heating and energy costs and carbon emissions of the end users as heat and power losses would be minimised due to the short distance between the CHP facility and end users, the efficiency of the plant would be maximised.

Reduction of Landfill and Waste Export

LBEP will process up to 500,000 tonnes of residual, unrecyclable waste per annum. This waste is currently landfilled or exported to Europe for use in similar facilities there meaning that the UK is not benefitting from the energy potential of its own waste products.

UK landfill capacity is diminishing, with only 50 sites expected to still be in use by 2020. Landfill results in reduced land quality and emissions of greenhouse gases. Using waste to generate energy and heat is cleaner, greener and more sustainable.

Community Funding

LBEP will be accompanied by an S106 commitment to invest in the local community. £50,000 per year for up to 25 years will be made available to local projects in Lea Bank, East Hyde, New Mill End and surrounding areas for community development, sustainable energy and projects which benefit the local area and its residents.

Sustainability

By 2018, approximately a quarter of the UK's electricity generating capacity is due to close and the UK Government is clear that new, low carbon generation capacity is required to provide a reliable, secure and affordable electricity supply. In order to diversify and decarbonise the electricity generation, the Government is supportive of a dramatic increase in the amount of renewable energy generation capacity, which will also help the UK to meet its commitments under the EU Renewable Energy Directive.

The benefits of an increase in renewable electricity generation are clear:

- A reduction in dependence on fossil fuel use which will improve energy security;
- A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from traditional fossil fuel energy generation; and
- Economic opportunities as a result of the construction and operation of new facilities.

“Lea Bank Energy Park is an exciting development for Luton and Central Bedfordshire and an essential investment into sustainable waste management and energy production for our future.”

Gavin Shuker MP

Reduced Carbon Footprint

Being an efficient energy recovery process, CHP facilities produce lower carbon emissions per unit of energy produced than conventional power facilities.

Homes and businesses making use of the power and heat produced enjoy a lower carbon footprint than those using fossil-fuel-generated energy.

Employment

The construction and ongoing operation of Lea Bank Energy Park will create up to 50 permanent jobs as well as contract and temporary opportunities.