

Poo helps power a green energy revolution

United Utilities' £100 million sludge recycling centre, which runs on human waste, has won the top Energy Award from the Institute of Chemical Engineers. They were against strong competition from Switzerland, the United States and Australia.



Davyhulme biogas holders

I am not sure if this should be called a green energy revolution, perhaps a brown one. Bio gases from digesting manure and human waste is not new but this really is on a grand scale. It may be capital intensive, but that is where government infrastructure spending is meant for like roads, bridges etc, and viable long term energy solutions. This is a win win situation with valuable fertiliser as the by-product.

The scheme has already put Davyhulme on the map thanks to the landmark green 'bubbles' which can be seen from the Barton Bridge on the M60 motorway in Manchester UK. These are the giant gas holders which store the biogas generated when sewage sludge from right across Manchester is digested in a revolutionary new process. The gas is used to power turbines on the site, generating clean green electricity, while the digested sludge is transformed into a nutrient-rich soil conditioner for agriculture.

The process generates enough green electricity to make the entire Davyhulme treatment works, one of the largest in the country, completely self-sufficient – the equivalent of powering 9,000 homes.

The judges were impressed by the partnership between United Utilities and its main contractor, Black & Veatch, which took an everyday “waste” material on a large scale and turned it into a new energy source and a valuable fertiliser for local farms. They described the scheme as “an impressive project with high impact and huge potential”.

Phil Sweeney, United Utilities area business manager, said: “This is a tremendous accolade and it recognises the global significance of what we’ve achieved – it’s a clever solution to a round-the-clock waste problem and it will save money for our customers in the long run.

“Davyhulme is the birthplace of the modern sewage treatment process and next year we will be celebrating 100 years of innovation at the site. Manchester should be very proud that this pioneering spirit continues today.”

Source: <http://revolution-green.com/poo-helps-power-green-energy-revolution/>