

19 March 2014

## Fire at Northacre resource recovery centre

Hills Waste Solutions can confirm that Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service attended a small fire at its Northacre resource recovery centre (RRC) on Stephenson Road in Westbury on Tuesday 18 March at 8.30pm.

The fire was contained almost immediately by the building's fire suppression system and the Fire Service assisted in dampening down of the material ensuring that re-ignition did not occur. No one was injured in the fire and the on-site emergency procedure for this type of incident was followed by staff on duty at the time. No damage has been sustained to either the building or equipment at the site.

Normal operations resumed at the site at 09.00am this morning. Hills is working with the Fire Service to carry out investigations into the cause of the fire.

Mike Webster, group director of Hills Waste Solutions, said: "We are grateful to our staff on site who reacted quickly to the situation and put in place the agreed emergency procedures, and to the Fire Service for attending promptly.

"The fire suppression system installed at Northacre uses some of the latest technology and its efficiency has been proven by this incident."

The Northacre resource recovery centre is operated by Hills Waste Solutions and processes 60,000 tonnes of Wiltshire's household waste each year using mechanical biological treatment technology. It was constructed in 2012 and became fully operational in December 2013 after an extensive commissioning phase.

**END**

### Facts and figures on Northacre RRC

- Website [www.northacrerrc.co.uk](http://www.northacrerrc.co.uk)
- The plant handles 60,000 tonnes of household waste each year, around 240-250 tonnes of waste per day (Monday-Friday). When processed (averages) per year are:
  - 28,200 tonnes of solid recovered fuel (SRF)
  - Equivalent of 20,000 tonnes lost through drying
  - 1,800 tonnes of recyclable materials recovered
  - 10,000 tonnes of bio-stabilised residue to landfill

- The Northacre RRC created 14 new jobs, which vary from cleaning contracts to specialist skilled trades.
- The plant took nearly eight years in planning, eighteen months and £24million to construct, just over 10 months to commission
- Used 13,500 tonnes of concrete in its construction
- The facility uses 2 megawatts of power
- 350 kilowatts of photovoltaic panels are to be installed on the roof in 2014
- This plant is the first and only mechanical biological treatment plant in Wiltshire
- It is one of only two in the West Country (the other is at Avonmouth, Bristol)
- It uses only air and natural microbes found within waste to bring about the decomposition process i.e. no chemicals are used
- By diverting waste away from landfill it will save Wiltshire Council money on landfill tax (currently £72 per tonne and rising £80 per tonne in April 2014)

#### Notes for editors

Hills Waste Solutions offers a range of specialist waste management and recycling services to both the public and private sector. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas to become one of the region's largest providers of waste solutions. Hills Waste Solutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Hills Group Limited, a privately owned family company established in 1900. [www.hills-waste.co.uk](http://www.hills-waste.co.uk)

Further details on Northacre RRC can be found at [www.northacrerrc.co.uk](http://www.northacrerrc.co.uk)

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