



CAPITAL SOLUTIONS FOR LONDON'S WASTE

For 15 years, SITA UK has helped to find new and more sustainable ways to manage waste generated by over one and a half million residents across north London.

As joint-owners of LondonWaste Ltd, a joint venture partnership between SITA UK and the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) between 1994 and 2009, the company helped to establish and run the EcoPark in Edmonton - one of the largest recycling and sustainable waste facilities in London.

THE CHALLENGE

In 1992 the energy-from-waste (EfW) facility at Edmonton, which was built in 1970 and owned by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), faced closure with substantial investment required for it to comply with new legislation. After reviewing its options, the Waste Authority decided to address this problem by seeking the involvement of the private sector.

THE SOLUTION

Selecting SITA UK from a number of interested waste management companies, LondonWaste was formed in 1994 as a 50-50 joint venture company and given ownership of the Edmonton site. Since then, LondonWaste has operated the site and brought about major developments, considerably extended the types of services provided and also significantly increased the amount of materials it can deal with as a result.

In 2001, the EcoPark vision was launched with the aim of creating the leading example of integrated resource management within a single site. Investment soon followed, with a recycling centre for bulky materials added in 2003 and an in-vessel composting (IVC) centre – which now supplies thousands of tonnes of free compost to allotment-holders across north London – built in 2005.



A wood chipping centre was opened in 2006, whilst upgrades made to the EfW facility ensured that it was fit not only to meet new legal requirements but also to go on operating until at least 2020. The movement of recyclates by barges to and from the EcoPark, using the wharf adjacent to Lea Navigation Canal, was also successfully trialled in 2007 and a new anaerobic digestion project launched in 2009.

The 43-acre EcoPark site is of strategic importance and provides efficient and responsible ways of managing a variety of waste streams for business and the community. By recycling, composting and then recovering energy wherever possible from the remaining materials, LondonWaste is focussed on ensuring the recovery of as much value from waste as possible.

RESULTS AND BENEFITS

By utilising the best of both private and public sector knowledge, and by adapting to changing market trends, Edmonton EcoPark has become recognised as one of the best waste management sites in the UK. With seven operating centres and more facilities such as anaerobic digestion on the way, LondonWaste has proved its determination to stay at the forefront of waste management and to use environmentally responsible methods wherever possible.

The EfW facility alone now produces enough electricity to meet the needs of 66,000 homes as well as providing electricity for the whole EcoPark. With a wide customer base, including businesses, hospitals and local authorities, the EcoPark also welcomes a steady flow of visitors wishing to learn about modern methods of handling and treating waste.

The sale of SITA UK's 50 per cent share in LondonWaste to the NLWA was mutually agreed and announced in December 2009, with the aim of making the site available for the forthcoming procurement of the NLWA's waste management services.

Having played a prominent role in the successes and achievements of LondonWaste over the past 15 years, SITA UK remains proud of its involvement in north London and retains a strong interest in the area.

