



TURNING PEELINGS INTO POWER

Using Food Waste To Create Community Owned
Clean Energy In Brighton & Hove



BHESCO

Brighton & Hove
Energy Services
Cooperative

KEY FACTS GUIDE

Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative (BHESCO) are seeking to identify 35,000 tonnes of food and agricultural waste annually and to use it to supply biogas to 10,000 local homes.

As well as making our city more independent, this project will deliver tremendous environmental impacts by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Initially we will be speaking with the hospitality industry, schools and universities, hospitals, and councils in South East England.

Anyone wishing to get involved and donate their food waste needs to download and complete a [letter of intent](#).

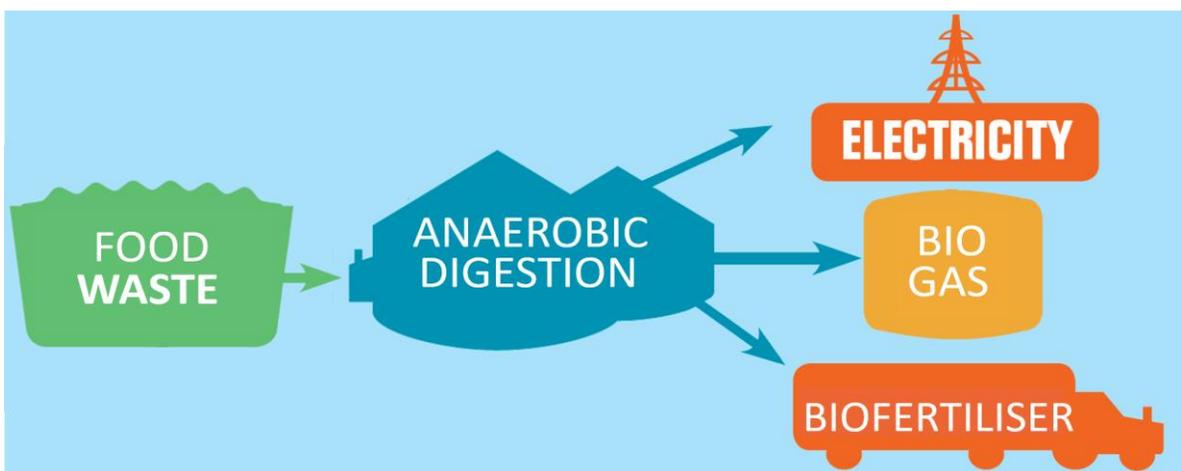
What Is Biogas?

Biogas is a type of fuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste.

When organic matter, such as food scraps and animal waste, break down they release a blend of gases, primarily methane and carbon dioxide.

Because this decomposition happens in an anaerobic environment (without oxygen), the process of producing biogas is also known as anaerobic digestion.

The end product can be used as a source of clean gas, clean electricity, or as biofertilizer for farming.



Is There Enough Food Waste In The Brighton & Hove Area To Supply The Plant?

The Brighton and Hove food sector alone produces 0.4 million tonnes of food waste each year (400,000 tonnes). We need to capture roughly 10% of this to supply enough food waste for the energy plant.

What Are The Environmental Benefits Of The Plant?

Every tonne of food waste not sent to landfill saves 0.9 tonnes of CO₂.

Therefore, if we are able to redirect 35,000 tonnes of food waste to the energy plant, we will save 31,500 tonnes of CO₂ each year

Where Will The Plant Be Built?

BHESCo are currently in discussions regarding several potential sites and will share the outcome as soon as a final decision has been made.

What Is The Lifecycle Of The Project?

We expect the plant to have a minimum operating life of 20 years.

Will The Transport We Use Be Low Carbon?

BHESCo intends to minimise emissions from transport in all of our project activities. We will not be transporting food waste ourselves to the plant but we will engage with our suppliers to encourage the use of low emissions transport from the outset.



Who Will Collect The Food Waste?

Businesses are free to choose their own waste collection contractor but should refer to their contract for information on break clauses and length of contractual obligation.

We are happy to discuss contracting in general for businesses that would like to ensure food waste is separated for processing at our AD plant.

What Costs Are Involved?

The Sustainable Restaurant Association recently produced a [report](#) highlighting the economic value of reducing food waste for businesses.

The report highlighted that food waste costs the restaurant sector an estimated £682 million each year, which is £3,500 per tonne of food waste, or 97 pence per meal.

In addition to the obvious environmental benefits associated with reducing landfill, the report found that for every £1 invested in reducing food waste, a restaurant can expect to make £7 in savings.

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What Assurances Are There That We Will Not Be Collecting Food That Is Suitable For Consumption?

BHESCo's AD plant project has been conceived from the outset to make use of food waste which is not suitable for consumption.

We have been aware of and have worked alongside the charitable organisations operating locally to ensure that we are not 'poaching' waste from these causes.

BHESCo's project sits at the 'bottom of the food chain' in that respect, but above other waste disposal options such as in-vessel composting, energy from waste incineration and landfill. This is because we believe that anaerobic digestion is the optimum solution for processing food waste and that captures the maximum value from the food waste.

About BHESCo

BHESCo is an award winning not-for-profit social enterprise who work with homes and businesses to reduce their energy bills and carbon emissions.

We have 160 shareholders who have invested more than half a million pounds in our business. Shareholders receive 5% interest on their investment and have a direct say in how our cooperative is run.

Since 2015 BHESCo have completed 40 energy projects around Sussex which collectively reduce annual CO₂ emissions by 220 tonnes per year.

All of our energy projects are financed using an innovative 'Pay As You Save' initiative meaning there is no upfront cost for our customers.

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