



## ***Press Release***

### **New in-vessel composting system opens**

A brand new composting plant was opened yesterday, Monday 19 October, at Donarbon's Waterbeach Waste Management Park, just north of Cambridge.

The new plant is another important element of the major 28-year waste PFI contract between Cambridgeshire County Council and Donarbon Ltd. to manage Cambridgeshire's household waste.

The new £4.5million in-vessel composting plant, designed and turn-key installed by technology providers Wasteology Systems Ltd, will take all the kerbside collected mixed kitchen and garden household waste from Cambridgeshire and turn it into compost that meets the PAS 100 standard, that will be used mostly by local farmers, but also by Cambridgeshire residents and allotment holders.

The composting plant was formally opened by Jan Taylor, Waste Infrastructure Manager at Cambridgeshire County Council, cutting a ribbon across the entrance to the main tipping hall, where council refuse trucks will off-load the co-mingled waste, allowing in the first vehicle, from South Cambridgeshire District Council, to deposit mixed kitchen and garden material ready to be put through the new composting process.

The composting plant will initially treat over 75,000 tonnes of organic waste each year; the waste will be shredded and then composted inside enclosed concrete clamps at temperatures over 60°C for 2 weeks followed by 6 weeks maturation, to produce around 40,000 tonnes of final compost (the weight loss is due to water evaporation and carbon dioxide given off during the composting process).



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Mark Davenport, Managing Director for Donarbon Ltd. said, "We are very pleased with the progress that has been made in developing these new facilities to treat Cambridgeshire's waste to ensure that as little is sent to landfill as possible. We have been impressed with the operation of our existing Wasteology in-vessel plant and this new composting facility will ensure that green waste is properly treated so that the County Council meets all its landfill diversion and recycling targets".

Councillor Tony Orgee, Cabinet Member for Economy and the Environment at Cambridgeshire County Council said, "I would like to thank our residents in Cambridgeshire who are among the top recyclers in the country. This new in-vessel composting plant is a fantastic addition to the waste facilities we are building over the coming years and will further improve our performance nationally. It will take all the green and food waste collected from four of our District Councils immediately, Cambridge City, East and South Cambridgeshire and Fenland Councils, and from Huntingdonshire net year".

The in-vessel composting system will comply with all the latest legal requirements, including the animal by-products regulations, so that the resulting compost is free of any potential diseases, and replaces a system that has been in place at Donarbon's waste park since 2001. The new composting facility is built to take account of the predicted 100,000 population increase in Cambridgeshire over the period of the PFI waste contract, plus it has the most up to date features to ensure it operates as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

The facility also includes a visitor viewing area so that school children and others can safely see the composting operations, and fits in with joint working between Cambridgeshire County Council and Donarbon to further raise awareness about waste reduction and recycling amongst local residents.



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### ***ENDS***

#### Notes for the Editor

1. For more information contact Mark Shelton, Waste Promotions Manager, Donarbon Ltd. tel. 01223 204836 or e-mail [markshelton@donarbon.com](mailto:markshelton@donarbon.com) or Simon Lacey, Communications and Media Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council, tel. 01223 712547, or e-mail [simon.lacey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:simon.lacey@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)
2. The pictures show;  
(RibbonCut2) the cutting of the ribbon, with (from L to R), Mark Davenport, Managing Director, Donarbon Ltd, Steve Graves, Site Operations Manager, Donarbon Ltd, Sarah Clover, Business Development Director, Donarbon Ltd, Jon Jones, Head of Operations, Donarbon Ltd, Jan Taylor, Waste Infrastructure Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council, Stuart Harwood-Clarke, Environment Operations Manager, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Kevin Taylor Contracts Manager, Breheny Contractors Ltd (the construction company) and David McVeigh Managing Director, Wasteology Systems Ltd. with the first South Cambridgeshire District Council refuse truck containing green waste in the background;  
(VehicleEmp1) the SCDC refuse truck unloading its green waste in the new tipping hall;  
(clamps1) the new concrete clamps where the composting will take place in a controlled environment, with the new tipping hall in the back ground.
3. For more information about Wasteology and the new in-vessel composting system, contact David McVeigh, Managing Director, Wasteology Systems Ltd. tel. 01728 861860 or e-mail [david@wasteology.com](mailto:david@wasteology.com)
4. Donarbon will be happy to arrange a site visit to the new in-vessel composting facility for reporters.