

7th July 2017

ReFood opens latest state-of-the-art AD facility in London

A state-of-the-art anaerobic digestion (AD) facility was officially opened in Dagenham earlier today (7 July) by Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor (Environment and Energy) and Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the RETHMANN Group Supervisory Board. Operated by ReFood, part of the SARIA Group (one of the three divisions of the RETHMANN Group), the site will act as a showcase of industry-leading food waste recycling technology.

One of the most important single site investments in the history of the SARIA Group, ReFood Dagenham will convert inedible food waste (collected from customers in and around London) into renewable energy and sustainable biofertiliser. The site is capable of processing more than 160,000 tonnes of food waste every year, generating 14 million m³ of biogas (enough to power 12,600 homes per annum).

As well as displacing 73,600 tonnes of CO₂, the equivalent of taking 14,431 cars off the road, ReFood Dagenham will support Transport for London's (TfL) Clean Air Action Plan through the generation of biomethane for gas-powered vehicles. At a later date, state-of-the-art gas upgrading equipment may also be installed on site to supply high quality road fuel.

Philip Simpson, commercial director at ReFood, commented: "Opening ReFood Dagenham comes as part of a strategic ambition to recycle more than one million tonnes of food waste by the end of 2017 – a milestone that we are on track to achieve."

"Since our first year of production in 2012, national operations have grown by more than 250%. ReFood Dagenham will play an important role in furthering this success, providing an environmentally-friendly waste management solution for customers in London and the surrounding areas."

Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor (Environment and Energy), added: “We’re committed to helping drive up London’s recycling rates, as well as making London zero carbon by 2050. This new facility, the first of its kind in London, is exactly the type of solution we need to help achieve this. Not only will it deal with London’s food waste, but it will also produce clean biogas to help cut the carbon emissions of the gas grid.”

ReFood Dagenham is the company’s third facility in the UK, adding to existing sites in Doncaster and Widnes. Alongside state-of-the-art AD operations, the site will also feature a transfer facility for Category 3 animal by-products (ABP), collected from butchers’ shops across the region. The facility continues the company’s long association with London, dating back more than 200 years through fat and bone collections in Silvertown under the John Knight brand.

For more information about ReFood, the company’s Dagenham AD facility, or its comprehensive food waste recycling service, visit www.refood.co.uk.

Key facility facts and figures

The new facility provides a secure, closed-loop, end-to-end waste management solution. It will have the capability to:

- *Divert 160,000 tonnes of London’s food waste away from landfill*
- *Displace 73,600 tonnes of CO2 (equivalent of taking 14,431 cars off the road)*
- *Generate 14 million m3 of gas per annum (enough to fuel over 12,600 homes a year)*
- *Create biomethane to support Transport for London’s Clean Air Action Plan*
- *Help London businesses reduce food waste costs by up to 47%*.*

In terms of size and scope, the facility features:

- *22,458m3 onsite liquids storage – enough to fill nine Olympic swimming pools*
- *2.79 miles of cable ducts*
- *10,000m3 of concrete – more than 25,000 tonnes in weight*
- *37,751 m2 of mesh reinforcement – enough to cover more than nine football pitches*

* - *cost saving compared to a comparable landfill disposal in 2017.*