

Connect



Summer 2020

Beddington Community Newsletter

Welcome to the summer 2020 Beddington Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) construction newsletter.

A lot has happened on-site since the last edition of the newsletter.

Viridor has now formally taken control of the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility from its construction partners, who remain on-site to finish the last components of the construction project. This marks a significant milestone in the project, and we are now completing the final construction activities including putting the finishing touches to the administration building and completing the roads around the facility.

In the coming months, the landscaping around the facility will continue to be established and the construction village (the temporary buildings that were used while the facility was being built) will be removed. This will allow that area to be restored into wet grasslands for the benefit of local wildlife.



Aerial photograph of the Beddington Farmlands (looking south).

Speaking of wildlife, one of the most recent activities on-site was to install swift nesting boxes on the side of the energy recovery facility.

The administration building at the ERF has a brown living roof and will provide a habitat for swifts to feed on before making their homes in the nesting boxes on the north-facing side of the building.

On the wider Beddington Farmlands (the green space stretching from Beddington Park to Mitcham Common) there is plenty of activity planned as wildlife habitats continue to be created, with Viridor delivering the Beddington Restoration Management Plan to establish a network of wildlife habitats and public access for the community – more information on page 5.

Energy recovery facilities, like the plant at Beddington, play a vital role in attaching a purpose to non-recyclable waste by generating electricity and heat to keep the lights on in the UK, contributing to energy security and powering UK industry.

At Beddington, our combined heat and power plant feeds enough electricity into the National Grid to power 57,000 homes. The facility will also soon start delivering low-carbon heating and hot water supplies to the New Mill Quarter development in Hackbridge as part of the Sutton Decentralised Energy Network (SDEN). The highly insulated pipelines from the ERF to New Mill Quarter have been installed and are now being tested.

COVID-19 update

Viridor staff, including those based at Beddington ERF, were classified as 'key workers' during the COVID-19 pandemic, recognising the essential role they play in ensuring rubbish can be disposed of safely and lights can be kept on. Viridor is grateful to its dedicated team of employees who continue to go above and beyond to provide vital service during these challenging and uncertain times.

What is the Beddington ERF & why do we need it?

The Beddington ERF is a vital facility that:



Deals with non-recyclable waste in a safe and environmentally sustainable way.

Provides local residents and businesses with an alternative to landfill.



Treats

95%

of the non-recyclable

rubbish collected from households in Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton (the South London Waste Partnership), instead of burying it in the ground.

Generates enough electricity to power

c.57,000
homes.



Will provide low-carbon hot water and heating to nearby homes and businesses.

Understanding more about what comes out of the ERF

An essential part of turning waste into energy is combustion. When waste is combusted (burnt), it produces gases (emissions) which the sophisticated technology in modern energy recovery facilities is designed to treat. One-third of the Beddington plant is dedicated to capturing and cleaning these gases. Each month a summary emissions report on the energy recovery facility is published on the Virtual Visitor Centre. The facility is monitored and regulated by the Environment Agency.

Learning more about energy recovery



Members of the community are now able to explore the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility from the comfort of their sofa or on-the-go through their smartphone as the interactive Virtual Visitor Centre is now live.

The Virtual Visitor Centre is a website for members of the community to learn more about the Energy Recovery Facility, including what happens to their non-recyclable waste after it is collected from their doorstep.

By visiting the Virtual Visitor Centre, you can follow the journey of your waste from the kerbside to how it helps to generate energy and heat to keep your lights on and homes warm!

Visit today at
beddingtonerf.info



The waste is combusted at very high temperatures under strictly controlled conditions to generate energy. The facility produces enough electricity to power itself plus around 57,000 homes.

Did you know?



Come to the Energy Recovery Facility to learn more about your waste



We're delighted to announce that the on-site Education Centre has opened its doors. Located on the first floor of the ERF Administration Block, this fully accessible room can accommodate groups of approximately 15 visitors.

The purpose-built room is fully equipped with modern presentation facilities. Eye-catching information boards on the walls tell the fascinating story of the Beddington Farmlands site and tactile displays allow visitors to get hands-on with the challenge of tackling waste.

Large glass doors lead out to a balcony, offering views across the northern wet grasslands, Hackbridge and St Helier Hospital in the distance.

The Education Centre is located immediately adjacent to the ERF, making it the perfect base for tours of the facility itself.

Councillor Hilary Gander, Chair of the South London Waste Partnership Joint Committee, said: "I am delighted that the Beddington ERF Education Centre is now open for business. It's a fantastic resource and will prove invaluable in helping the four SLWP boroughs share important messages around how waste is managed. The tour of the facility itself is very informative and thought-provoking; standing in the Operating Room looking down on a week's worth of rubbish in the bunker that hasn't been sorted for recycling makes the scale of the challenge we face really hit home. If there was ever an advert for the importance of waste reduction, that's it! It's also fascinating seeing and hearing about all the technology and procedures in place at the ERF to ensure our non-recyclable waste is treated (and turned into energy) safely. I would encourage all local residents, teachers and community group leaders to get in touch with Viridor to arrange a visit to this fascinating site."

If you're interested in visiting the site, please go to the 'More Information' section of the Virtual Visitor Centre (www.beddingtonerf.info) where contact details can be found. Due to COVID-19 we will take bookings for tours in the coming months once restrictions are lifted.



Making sure we put the Right Stuff in the Right Bin



Whilst the ERF can process a wide range of materials safely, things like scrap metal, batteries and gas cylinders impact upon the operational performance of the facility and can result in increased maintenance periods, so please help us by making sure these items don't end up in your rubbish bin. Materials including gas cylinders, lithium ion batteries, electrical items and scrap metal should be taken to your local Household Reuse and Recycling Centre. None of these items should be placed in your rubbish bin and sent to the ERF.

Households across the four London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton (which make up the South London Waste Partnership – the 'SLWP') are recycling more and wasting less. Over the last three years, the four boroughs have made significant changes to their collection services. With the support of residents, these changes have seen the average recycling rate across the SLWP region jump from 39% to 46%. This is great news: the SLWP and Viridor are keen to ensure that materials that could be recycled don't end up at the ERF.

But to achieve that, we need residents to put the right stuff in the right bin. Remember, food waste, paper and card, plastic packaging, glass bottles and jars, cans and cartons can be easily recycled using your household recycling collection service.

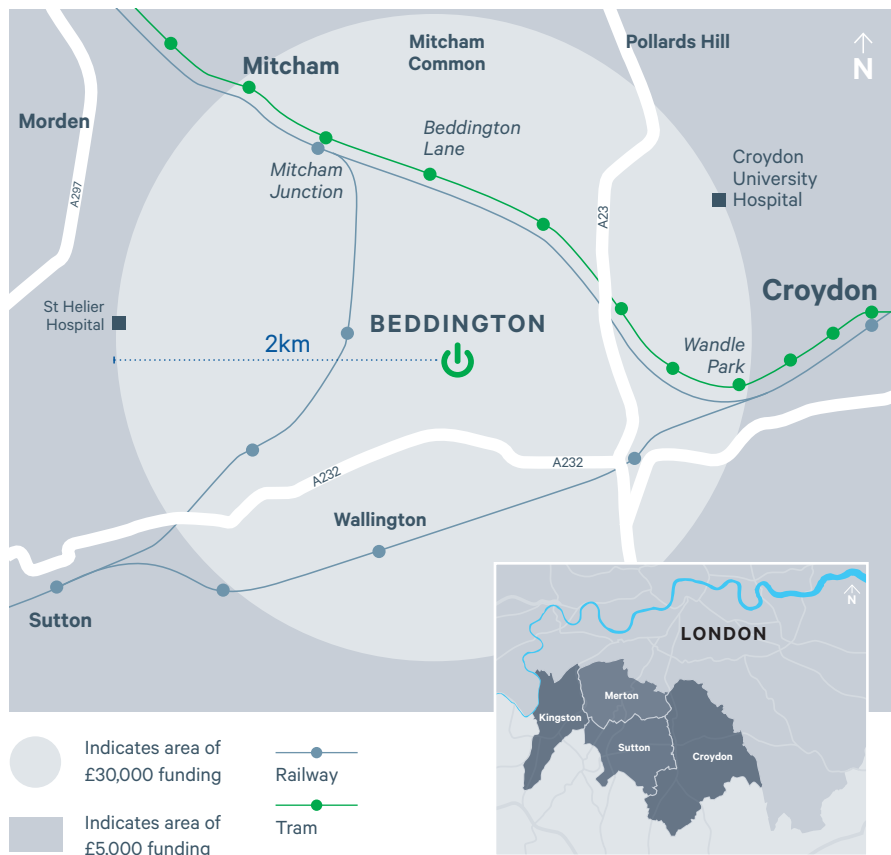
For more information about what you can recycle in your borough, visit your local council's website. Thank you for helping us to recycle more and waste less.

Community Benefit Fund update

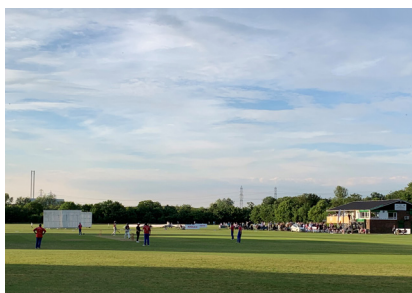


Community projects within a 2km radius of the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility can apply for up to £30,000 and projects within the four boroughs are eligible for up to £5,000. In total, the fund will see around £1 million being made available to local community groups over the next 25 years.

Since the launch of the Community Benefit Fund (designed to help support local community projects within the London boroughs of Kingston, Merton, Croydon and Sutton) we have been able to support community projects, with over £95,000 being donated so far to support new fridges, football kits and even a composter!



The most recent donations include:



The Beddington Cricket Club renovations are continuing and all of the asbestos in the changing rooms and roof has now been removed. Over the summer, the club received new solar panels and will be completing the makeover Viridor is helping to fund in 2020. Howzat!



Maggie's at The Royal Marsden in Sutton, provides free support for people with cancer, their families and friends, further enhancing The Royal Marsden's world-leading treatment and care.

The Community Benefit Fund made a donation to provide printed information materials, publications, a projector and stationery to support their activities at the centre.



The Commonside Trust works to improve the lives and environment of people living in Merton. The Community Fund donated money to support with new kitchen appliances and a leaf composter to create a soil conditioner for the on-site allotment.

To speak to the Community Benefit Fund administrator or for further information about Beddington's Community Fund please visit our website or email: beddingtonercommunityfund@viridor.co.uk



The history of the Farlands

As well as a small Roman villa dating back well over 1,000 years, during the Victorian period the site was used as a sewage works. Wastewater from across south London was treated at the Beddington Farlands. It was spread onto the site and left to dry out in man-made sludge drying beds. Now the sewage treatment works returns clean water into the river Wandle. The sludge drying beds are now drying out. Viridor is creating new wet grassland as replacement habitat for the wildlife.



Beddington Farlands restoration programme

Now that the Beddington landfill site is closed to waste (with this waste now being sent to the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility), the team at the Beddington Farlands is working to deliver the Restoration Management Plan. This will create a network of habitats including wet grassland and meadowland.

Between now and 2023 the restoration team will create a network of habitats across the Farlands. Once they are established Viridor will work with the community and the on-site warden to establish access points from Beddington Park, the western footpath and Beddington Lane.

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A UK-wide network of charity partners



As part of the commitment to develop lasting relationships within communities around its operational sites across the UK, Viridor is committed to supporting the fantastic work of local charitable causes. Nationally Viridor has selected, with the help of its employees, 12 charity partners and three are located near the Beddington site.



Members of the three charities took a tour to explore inside the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility.

Delegates from each of the charities visited the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Sutton to receive a cheque for £3,333. St Raphael's Hospice is a local charity that provides exceptional end-of-life care to the people of Merton and Sutton. Based at the Chaucer Centre in Morden, Merton Mencap supports children and adults with a learning disability, and their family carers. The British Home is based in Croydon and offers care for people with severe disabilities and long-term medical conditions.



A view along the Beddington permissive footpath

Beddington Farmlands restoration programme

(continued from page 5)

In the coming months we will start the final work of shaping the northern wet grassland (viewable from the northern-most bird hide) along with digging out the southern wet grassland (near to Beddington Park).

The Conservation and Access Management Committee (CAMC) is the overarching community scrutiny body to ensure the Farmlands is restored to meet the needs of the wildlife and the community. The CAMC includes community representatives, elected members and technical representatives.

We share a regular short restoration snapshot of activity and monitor progress against our restoration roadmap. Please check out our website and social media.

In the coming months we hope to hold further open days to enable the wider community to explore the Beddington Farmlands. If you would like to register for notifications of these events and updates of the Beddington Farmlands please email beddingtonfarmlands@viridor.co.uk.



A plan of the restored habitats to be created at the Beddington Farmlands



One of the bird hides at Beddington

You can walk along the Beddington Farmlands permissive footpath from Beddington Park, north towards Micham Junction.

Along the footpath there are three bird hides that are free to access and look out across the lakes and wet grassland. It takes around 35 minutes to walk the whole way.

Need to get in touch?

If you have any queries relating to the Beddington ERF, please contact us on beddingtonerf@viridor.co.uk or for operations at the Beddington Farmlands contact us on beddingtonfarmlands@viridor.co.uk

For more information about the ERF and to request a visit, please go to our website www.viridor.co.uk or Virtual Visitor Centre www.beddingtonerf.info

You can also write to us at
Community Relations, Beddington ERF
105 Beddington Lane, Beddington, Sutton
CRO 4TD