

News Release

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Industry first as Biogen food waste to energy plant scores 'Excellent' for sustainability

Food waste recycling specialist Biogen has achieved a CEEQUAL 'Excellent' rating for its new state of the art anaerobic digestion plant near Baldock in Hertfordshire.

The £12m Bygrave anaerobic digestion (AD) plant scored top marks for improving sustainability in civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping and the public realm.

The CEEQUAL 'Whole Team Award' made to Biogen, designers Rolton Group and constructors Toureen Group, is **the first award of this kind for an AD plant in the UK.**

The AD plant, on track to be operational by November, will process 45,000 tonnes of food waste each year from retailers, manufacturers and households to produce 2.2 MW of renewable electricity, enough to power 3,600 homes plus a nutrient rich biofertiliser for nearby farmland.

Sustainability features of the plant include:

- **14,000 trees planted** to screen the plant, enhance the future landscape and once mature, to serve as food and habitat providers for birdlife.
- Embankments around the plant adapted to form beetle banks
- Perching posts installed for corn buntings, a bird species in decline, to encourage their return to the area.
- An overflow basin on site adapted in order to provide a pond habitat for amphibians and other wildlife.

Nigel Sheppard, Director of Projects said, "This is a fantastic achievement for Biogen and for the AD industry. During the planning and construction phases of the Bygrave plant our priority was to protect the environment and to enhance the natural landscape wherever possible.

"The majority of the site was initially considered to be of relatively low ecological value but now, as a result of our actions, we've actually succeeded in assisting the ecological diversity of the local area; we are absolutely delighted."

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Notes to Editors

- CEEQUAL is a sustainability assessment rating and awards scheme for civil engineering, infrastructure and works in public spaces.
- For more background on the award please see www.ceequal.co.uk
- Biogen has also registered its Merevale AD plant in Warwickshire for the CEEQUAL scheme.
- The company has 4 operational AD plants in: Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Gwynedd and Denbighshire and a further 4 plants [including Bygrave] under construction in South Wales, Warwickshire and Edinburgh.
- Biogen employs 80 people across the UK and is responsible for 18 anaerobic digestion plants to date.
- Biogen provides food waste treatment services to the likes of Marks and Spencer, ASDA, Midland Co-op, Spirit Group, Waitrose and major recycling company Paper Round.
- Biogen also processes food waste from 25 local authorities including Richmond, Hounslow, Ealing, Peterborough, Denbighshire and Gwynedd.
- Find us at www.biogen.co.uk and follow us onTwitter: [@BiogenAD](https://twitter.com/BiogenAD).