

Demin water helps stop 240,000 tonnes of waste reaching landfill in Hull, UK

Constructed within a brownfield site alongside the River Hull, Energy Works Hull is live and operational, generating enough energy to power 47,000 homes. The source of this power: 240,000 tonnes of refuse destined for landfill. At the heart of this plant is a gasification system, burning non-recyclable refuse from homes and businesses to generate renewable electricity. Protecting the plant and ensuring it stays operational 24-hours-a-day, year-round, is a stream of purified demin water.

Protection through purification

“This is the latest of many waste-to-energy construction projects that we have been involved in,” explains Ian Pearson, Operations Director, Envirogen Group. “This industry is experiencing rapid growth as businesses, local councils and the Government see the benefit in tackling two of society’s biggest problems with one solution.

“Not only do waste-to-energy plants remove a large quantity of waste that would otherwise be sent to landfill but they also provide a clean and green way of producing renewable energy, without reliance on fossil fuels.”

Bioenergy Infrastructure Group (BIG) is the owner and operator of Energy Works Hull, developing the site in a joint venture with Spencer, Noy Fund and John Hancock through Hancock Natural Resources Group (HNRG).

Energy Works Hull is the largest of many sites managed by BIG with a generation capacity of 24MW. Although experts in gasification infrastructure, BIG required a specialised water treatment company to supply purified water streams that would ensure cost-effective, efficient, reliable and long-lasting operation of the plant.

The plant takes a feed of waste that has been pre-screened for recyclable material and burns it in a gasification chamber. The heat from this process is used to turn water into steam which is used to drive a turbine and generator to produce electricity.

Due to the high operating temperature and pressure, scale can build-up, damaging equipment and dramatically reducing the operating efficiencies of the boiler and steam turbine.



Flexible and future-proofed solutions

“Although the steam cycle is designed as a closed system, modern boilers still require a stream of demineralised water to make up for losses,” continues Pearson. “BIG needed to guarantee a reliable supply of pure water with all soluble ions and suspended particles removed. Our water purification technology is tried and tested, with modular designs that offer effective solutions with lower capital outlays and low operating costs. The industrial water demineralisation system installed for BIG delivers demin water at a rate of 5 m³/hr.”

Envirogen Group’s three-step treatment uses reverse osmosis (RO) technology followed by gas transfer membranes (GTM) and finally electrodeionization (EDI) to remove all scale-forming ions that might impact the efficiency of the generator. The resulting demin water has a conductivity of less than 0.1 micro siemens (μS), with less than 10 parts per billion (ppb) silica and less than 3 ppb sodium.

Envirogen’s automated, integrated skid-mounted treatment system is modular in design, scalable and relocatable. The treatment system is future-proofed, allowing additional units to be added or upgraded to match the needs of the site and to scale-up operations, should the site capacity increase in the future. By taking the modular approach, Energy Works Hull has a flexible solution that continues to reach the greatest cost efficiencies.

Plans for the site include supplying district heat as part of a combined heat and power (CHP) solution,” says Pearson. “This system will allow expansion so that additional utility demin water can be created should the on-site demands change.

“We have incorporated the very latest industrial water demineralisation technology with our EcoRO/CDI, next-generation, skid-mounted demin water system. Traditional systems would include resin beds, which process water in batches and require chemical regeneration in between. This means storing and handling chemicals on-site and incorporating additional health and safety procedures. In addition, this chemical regeneration creates an effluent stream that needs to be processed and pH balanced. Our EcoRO/CDI skid requires no chemical regeneration, relying instead on a small amount of electricity to renew the membranes. As electricity is generated on-site and the whole process carries a much lower operating cost versus a resin-bed solution, the EcoRO/CDI system was the ideal solution.”

“This is just one way that we ensure low running costs,” continues Pearson. “Capital outlay is often the key consideration for procurement teams but the operating cost is equally important when gauging the payback period and the total value of water purification technology. We build a low-cost operating model into every element of our design.

“We provide membranes, filters and consumables that last longer and need replacing less often. Our reverse osmosis membranes are durable and long-lasting which delivers considerable cost savings to our clients.

3D model designed to show the final demin water plant installed at Energy Works Hull

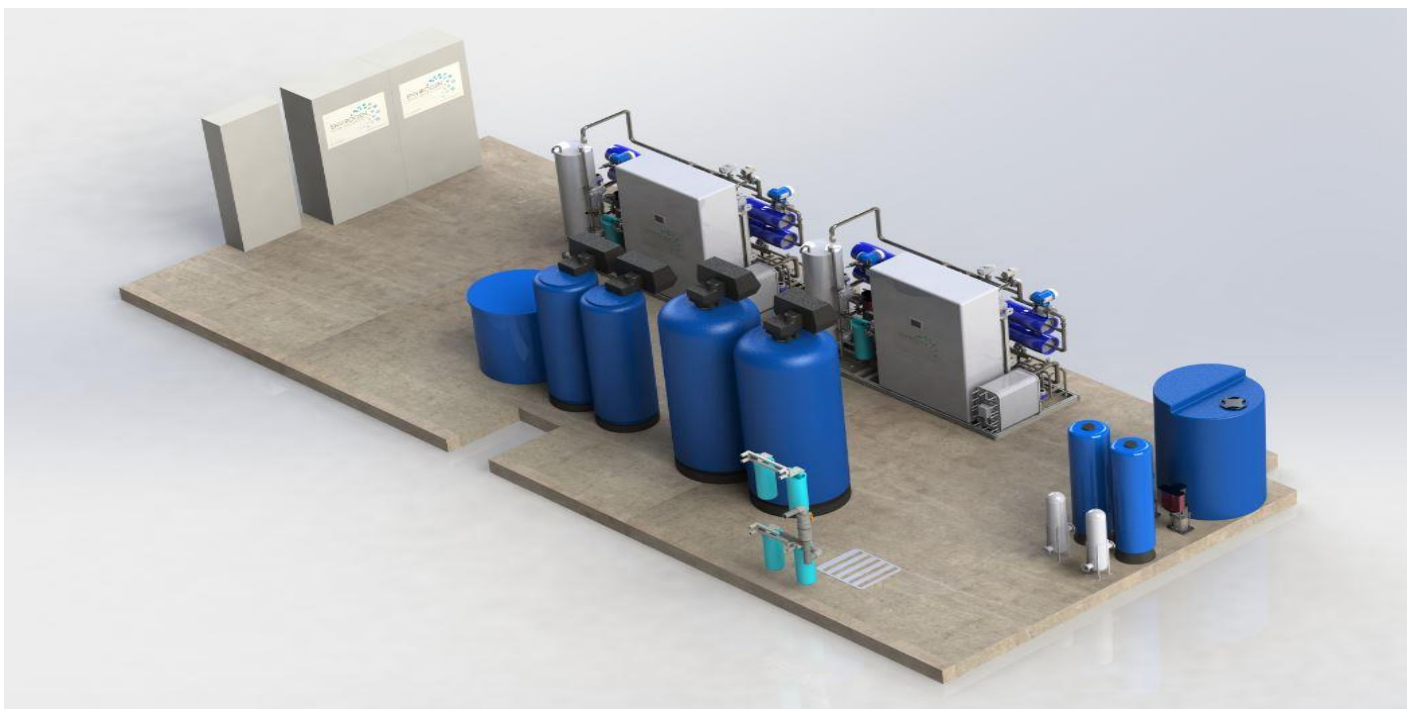
Taking the total solution approach

“Our clients often tell us that our value lies in our total solution approach. We don’t just design water purification technology, we install and commission it too, provide the ongoing after-sale service and maintenance to ensure long and efficient life. We also add value through the supply of specially selected process filtration consumables with a low total cost of ownership.”

This total solution approach extends throughout the client’s site too. Envirogen conducted detailed studies of the incoming town’s water and designed a bespoke pre-treatment system based on granular activated carbon (GAC) filters and softener resins to protect the upstream demineralisation plant.

“We worked with the BIG team at all stages to ensure that the industrial water demineralisation plant would be delivered and installed within the project timescales. Of course, BIG wasn’t our only project stakeholder and we worked with multiple engineers onsite to streamline individual workstreams. Collaboration was key; the project would only be a success if all individual parts came together at the right time and in the right way. Our mission is always to add value and to use our unique understanding of water treatment to help steer the project in the most time-efficient and cost-effective way.”

Energy Works Hull is now live and operational, supplying the equivalent of 47,000 homes worth of power to homes and businesses throughout Hull. 240,000 tonnes of refuse will be diverted from landfill and this, along with less reliance on traditional power generation, saves 35,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum.



Key outcomes

- A complete skid-based industrial water demineralisation system installed to produce demin water at a rate of 5 m³/hr
- Modular, future-proofed design for flexibility and scalability
- Process water conductivity reduced to 0.1 micro siemens (µS)
- The latest electrodeionization technology installed with no chemical treatment required
- Free electricity generated on-site is used to recharge membranes
- A solution that meets the needs of a large and diverse group of stakeholders

For more information on other water treatment and process filtration solutions for the power and energy industry, see our Eco Park Surrey case study at www.envirogengroup.com

About the client

Bioenergy Infrastructure Group is a renewable energy provider and investor specialising in biomass and waste-to-energy plants, with a leading position in the UK's biomass and waste-to-energy sectors. The Group has over 100MW of operational late-stage construction assets

spread across multiple sites in the UK. Bioenergy Infrastructure Group is on course to make a significant contribution to the development of the UK's low-carbon economy by diverting over 1 million tonnes of waste from landfill per annum and generating enough electricity to power 250,000 homes.



Contact Details:

UK Headquarters

Envirogen Group
Unit 9, Wimsey Way
Alfreton Trading Estate
Alfreton
Derbyshire
DE55 4LS
T: +44 1773 441 029
E: enquiries@envirogengroup.com

The Netherlands Office

Envirogen Technologies bv
Peningweg 71
1507 DG Zaandam
Netherlands
T: +31 75 204 7200
E: nlinfo@envirogengroup.com

Germany (Sales)

T: +49 234 6220 9001
E: info.de@envirogengroup.com

Italy (Sales)

T: +39 029 39 591
E: info.it@envirogengroup.com

North American Headquarters

2627 Chestnut Ridge Rd.,
Suite 260
Kingwood, TX 77339
T: 877.312.8950
E: info@envirogen.com

www.envirogengroup.com



Follow Envirogen Group
on LinkedIn:

Contact your regional office to find out more about Envirogen Group water treatment and process filtration solutions