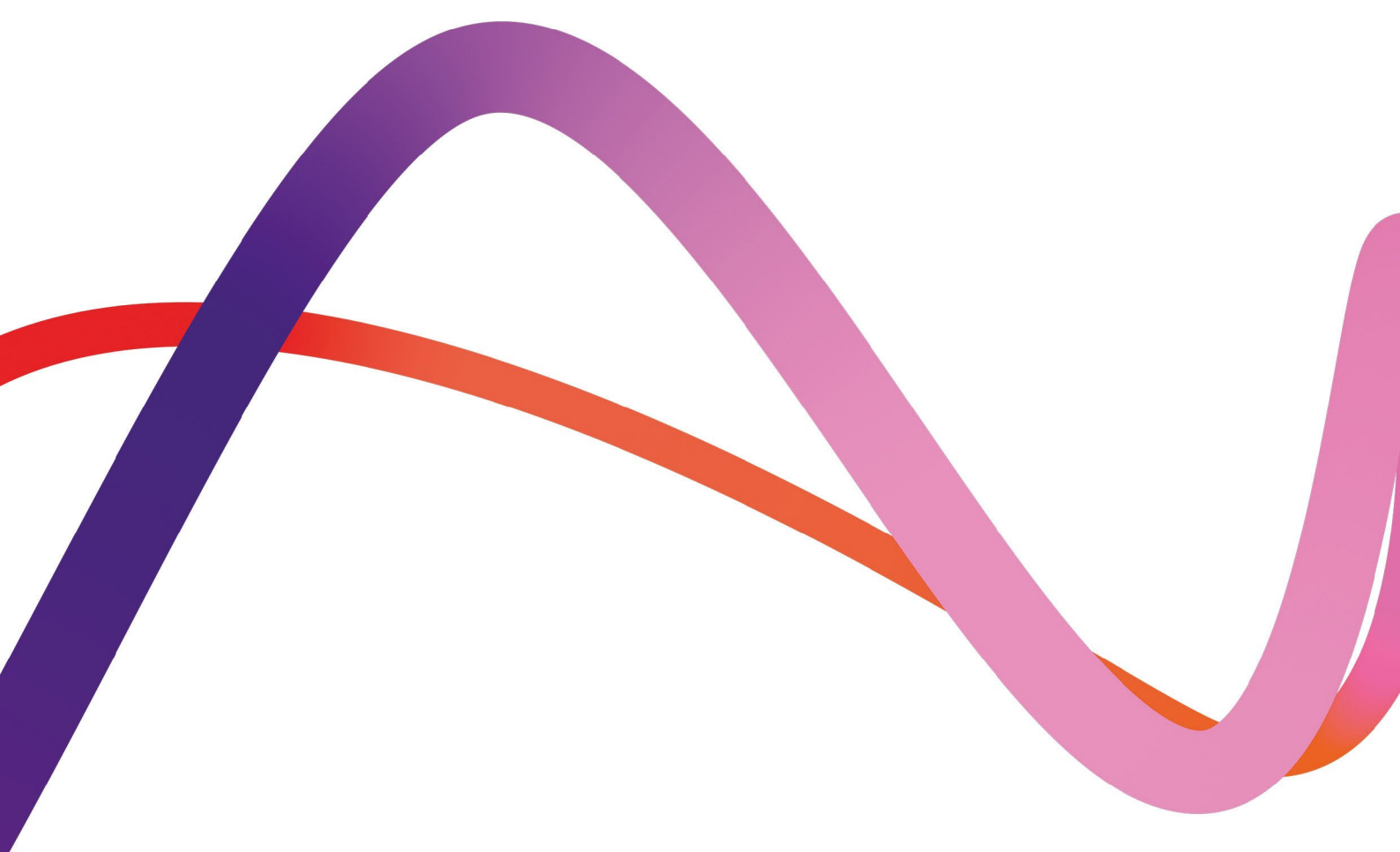


Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility



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June 2022



Outline Community Benefits Strategy

**We inspire
with energy.**



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Medworth CHP Limited (the Applicant) is applying to the Secretary of State (SoS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct operate and maintain an Energy from Waste (EfW) Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Facility on the industrial estate, Algores Way, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. Together with associated Grid Connection, CHP Connection, Access Improvements, Water Connections, and Temporary Construction Compound (TCC), these works are the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development would recover useful energy in the form of electricity and steam from over half a million tonnes of non-recyclable (residual), non-hazardous municipal, commercial and industrial waste each year. The Proposed Development has a generating capacity of over 50 megawatts and the electricity would be exported to the grid. The Proposed Development would also have the capability to export steam and electricity to users on the surrounding industrial estate. Further information is provided in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 6.2)**.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Part 3 Section 14 of the Planning Act 2008 (2008 Act) by virtue of the fact that the generating station is located in England and has a generating capacity of over 50 megawatts (section 15(2) of the 2008 Act). It, therefore, requires an application for a DCO to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) under the 2008 Act. PINS will examine the application for the Proposed Development and make a recommendation to the SoS for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to grant or refuse consent. On receipt of the report and recommendation from PINS, the SoS will then make the final decision on whether to grant the Medworth EfW CHP Facility DCO.

1.2 The Applicant and MVV

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of MVV Environment Limited, which is part of the MVV Energie AG group of companies. MVV Energie AG is one of Germany's leading energy companies, employing approx. 6,500 people with assets of around €5 billion and annual sales of around €4.1 billion. The company has over 50 years' experience in constructing, operating, and maintaining EfW CHP plants in Germany and the UK. The Proposed Development represents an investment of approximately £450m and would be located in an area identified by Fenland District Council (FDC) as a business growth area for Wisbech¹.
- 1.2.2 The company has over 50-years' experience in constructing, operating, and maintaining EfW CHP facilities in Germany and the UK. MVV Energie's portfolio

¹ Policy LP8 – Wisbech, Fenland Local Plan (May 2014)



includes a 700,000 tonnes per annum residual EfW CHP facility in Mannheim, Germany.

1.2.3 MVV Energie has a growth strategy to be carbon neutral by 2040 and thereafter carbon negative, i.e., climate positive. Specifically, MVV Energie intends to:

- reduce its direct carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by over 80% by 2030 compared to 2018;
- reduce its indirect CO₂ emissions by 82% compared to 2018;
- be climate neutral by 2040; and
- be climate positive from 2040.

1.2.4 MVV's UK business retains the overall group ethos of 'belonging' to the communities it serves whilst benefitting from over 50 years' experience gained by its German sister companies.

1.2.5 MVV's largest project in the UK is the Devonport EfW CHP Facility in Plymouth. Since 2015, this modern and efficient facility has been using around 265,000 tonnes of municipal, commercial and industrial residual waste per year to generate electricity and heat, notably for Her Majesty's Naval Base Devonport in Plymouth, and exporting electricity to the grid.

1.2.6 In Dundee, MVV has taken over the existing Baldovie EfW Facility and has developed a new, modern facility alongside the existing facility. Operating from 2021, it uses up to 220,000 tonnes of municipal, commercial and industrial waste each year as fuel for the generation of usable energy.

1.2.7 Biomass is another key focus of MVV's activities in the UK market. The biomass power plant at Ridham Dock, Kent, uses up to 195,000 tonnes of waste and non-recyclable wood per year to generate green electricity and is capable of exporting heat.

1.2.8 In the UK, MVV's Safety, Quality, Wellbeing, Energy, Environment, Community and Health (SQWEECH) Policy (see **Appendix A**), sets out our vision which is:

"To operate the most efficient energy from waste combined heat and power plants in the UK to achieve the greatest benefit to our communities, the environment, and our shareholders".

1.2.9 This policy also includes MVV's commitments to the local communities where they operate, which start from the earliest stages of each project, for example Stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process. The Applicant's Stakeholder and community engagement activities during the pre-submission period of the DCO application process are documented in the **Consultation Report (Volume 5.1)**.

1.2.10 MVV has over 10 years' experience in the UK of working in partnership with local educational establishments, community groups, and businesses to deliver a variety of employment and skills benefits. MVV believes it can support the priorities set out in the policies listed below in a number of ways, as detailed in the following paragraphs.



- 1.2.11 The Applicant is committed to being part of the communities in which it operates and is keen to support the aims set out in the national and local policies and guidance (see **Section 2**) with particular emphasis on support for ambitions to drive growth and enterprise in the area and address skills gaps.

1.3 Development Proposal

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises the following key elements:

- The EfW CHP Facility;
- CHP Connection;
- Temporary Construction Compound (TCC);
- Access Improvements;
- Water Connections; and
- Grid Connection.

- 1.3.2 A summary description of each Proposed Development element is provided below. A more detailed description is provided in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development (Volume 6.2)** of the ES. A list of terms and abbreviations can be found in **Chapter 1 Introduction, Appendix 1F Terms and Abbreviations (Volume 6.4)**.

- **EfW CHP Facility Site:** A site of approximately 5.3ha located south-west of Wisbech, located within the administrative areas of Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The main buildings of the EfW CHP Facility would be located in the area to the north of the Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board (HWIDB) drain bisecting the site and would house many development elements including the tipping hall, waste bunkers, boiler house, turbine hall, air cooled condenser, air pollution control building, chimneys and administration building. The gatehouse, weighbridges, 132kV switching compound and laydown maintenance area would be located in the southern section of the EfW CHP Facility Site.
- **CHP Connection:** The EfW CHP Facility would be designed to allow the export of steam and electricity from the facility to surrounding business users via dedicated pipelines and private wire cables located along the disused March to Wisbech railway. The pipeline and cables would be located on a raised, steel structure.
- **TCC:** Located adjacent to the EfW CHP Facility Site, the compound would be used to support the construction of the Proposed Development. The compound would be in place for the duration of construction.
- **Access Improvements:** includes access improvements on New Bridge Lane (road widening and site access) and Algores Way (relocation of site access 20m to the south).
- **Water Connections:** A new water main connecting the EfW CHP Facility into the local network will run underground from the EfW CHP Facility Site along New



Bridge Lane before crossing underneath the A47 (open cut trenching or horizontal directional drilling (HDD)) to join an existing Anglian Water main. An additional foul sewer connection is required to an existing pumping station operated by Anglian Water located to the northeast of the Algores Way site entrance and into the EfW CHP Facility Site.

- Grid Connection: This comprises a 132kV electrical connection using underground cables. The Grid Connection route begins at the 132kV switching compound in the EfW CHP Facility Site and runs underneath New Bridge Lane, before heading north within the verge of the A47 to the Walsoken Substation on Broadend Road. From this point the cable would be connected underground to the Walsoken DNO Substation.

1.4 Purpose of the Outline Community Benefits Strategy

1.4.1 MVV are committed to being part of the communities in which they operate and are keen to support them in appropriate and meaningful ways. Therefore, to supplement the Applicant's application for a DCO and reflect MVV's approach to ensuring the communities they work within benefit, this Outline Community Benefits Strategy describes the proposals that have been implemented at MVV's UK operational facilities and outlines a set of proposals that the Applicant is proposing to be implemented for the Proposed Development. The Applicant has received feedback and suggestions for community benefits, from the local community, through the non-statutory and statutory consultation process and these include:

- Education around waste recycling and waste hierarchy, for example through the 'Getting it Sorted' initiative;
- Use of the EfW CHP facility visitor area as a venue for events;
- Investment in tree planting and general biodiversity enhancement;
- Funding for local community projects;
- Provision of a playground and playground equipment on Pickards Way;
- Funding for improvements to Wisbech town centre;
- General support for employment and skills (now covered in the Applicant's Employment and Skills Strategy); and
- Work with local community groups.

1.4.2 However, to firm up the final community benefits commitments the Applicant will enter into further discussion with local community groups, local residents, and the local liaison committee, once established. This is to ensure that the community benefits delivered reflect what the local community wants.

1.4.3 The Applicant will publish its final Community Benefits Strategy on its project website prior to commencement of the Proposed Development.



2. Examples and proposals

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Section 2 outlines community benefit examples from MVV's operational facilities in the UK and outlines how these would be developed for the Proposed Development.

2.2 Liaison Committee

2.2.1 Local liaison committees have provided a valuable channel of communication at MVV's Dundee and Plymouth facilities. Here regular and well-attended meetings take place with local residents, councillors and other parties by invitation as required; for example, the Environment Agency, relevant council officers, Ministry of Defence (Plymouth) local businesses or community groups who may be invited to contribute to specific topics. At Plymouth these meetings were held on a monthly basis during construction and commissioning, this has now reduced over time to a 6 monthly meeting at the request of the committee. In Dundee the Good Neighbours Group meets on a quarterly basis.

2.2.2 Preparation to establish a local liaison committee for the Proposed Development commenced during the pre-submission phase of the DCO process. During the Applicant's statutory consultation, the community and Stakeholders were invited to express an interest in joining a local liaison committee, and there was a sign-up option on the Applicant's project website; to date, 14 people/organisations have expressed an interest.

2.2.3 Once the DCO application has been accepted for examination, the Applicant will contact those respondents who requested membership to establish a local liaison committee for the Proposed Development. The local liaison committee is in addition to any liaison required under, for example, the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Volume 7.12)**.

2.2.4 The Applicant will rent a space in a local community venue to host each meeting during the construction period. The frequency of meetings will be established at the first meeting of the local liaison committee. Following construction meetings will be held in a dedicated area within Administration Building.

2.2.5 A representative from Applicant's senior management team will attend these meetings. Terms of Reference will be proposed and agreed at the first meeting, with the Applicant proposing to provide administrative support in the form of preparing an agenda, taking minutes, distributing correspondence, and issuing invitations for meetings. Membership will initially be determined by those attending the first meeting but can be reviewed at any time.

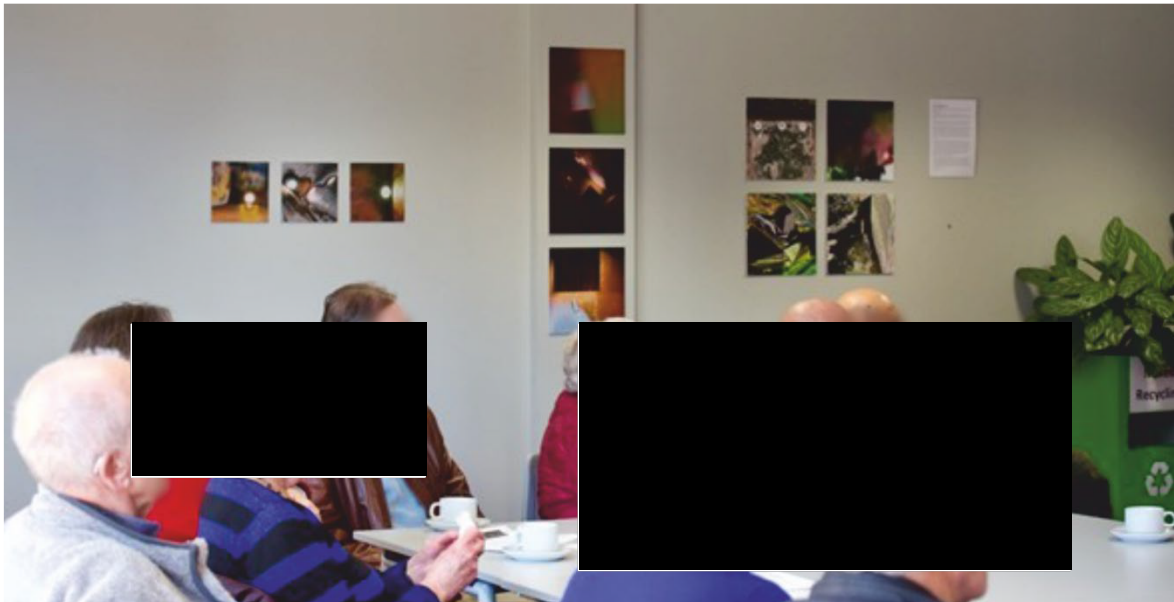
2.2.6 The objective of the liaison committee is to encourage discussion between interested parties on issues relating to the DCO and, Environmental Permit (EP) applications and, subject to consent being granted, the construction and operational phase for the Proposed Development. It is intended to be a forum for the open exchange of information.



2.3 Purpose Built Visitor Facilities

- 2.3.1 At MVV's Plymouth facility, the Community Liaison Manager successfully organised and delivered site tours and educational activities relating to resource and waste management and broader STEM subjects, to a wide range of audiences since the start of the construction phase of the project in 2012. In the 12-months before the first national lockdown, imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 3,500 visitors visited the site; this figure includes 250 people who attended the annual open day and more than 50 people who helped with annual litter pick (see **section 2.7**).
- 2.3.2 At MVV Dundee facility MVV also includes a dedicated visitor's area to deliver environmental educational and awareness activities. Since the beginning of construction in 2018 to full service commencement (January 2022), MVV has carried out 48 environmental and 28 awareness raising activities to over 5,600 people in Dundee.

Graphic 2.1: Dedicated visitor area at MVV's Plymouth facility



- 2.3.3 The EfW CHP Facility includes a visitor area in the administration building to accommodate meetings with contractors and suppliers and technical workshops. This visitor area will be designed so that it can also accommodate school and community groups for the delivery of workshops and events.

2.4 Site Tours

- 2.4.1 At all MVV's operational sites, MVV welcomes visitors, who are interested in understanding the process of waste treatment and energy generation, to come for a site tour. MVV staff are proud of their facilities and take time to speak with visitors about their roles and career pathways, as well as more technical aspects of the operation.



- 2.4.2 For the Proposed Development, the Applicant will employ a full time Community Liaison Manager to deliver site tours and waste/resources education. A safety briefing will be delivered before any site tour and all necessary PPE will be provided. The photographs below show a site tour underway at MVV's Plymouth facility.

Graphic 2.2: Photographs of a typical site tour at MVV's Plymouth facility control room (left) and boiler house (right)



2.5 Community Funding

- 2.5.1 A Community Fund is provided by MVV at our facility in Plymouth. The fund supports local community projects and is independently administered by the North Yard Community Trust, who are now registered as a charity. More information about the Trust, and the type of local projects that MVV has supported through the Trust, can be found on their website: <https://www.northyardcommunitytrust.org.uk/>.
- 2.5.2 MVV offers additional funding for local community projects, appropriate to each facility they operate in the UK and the needs of their local communities.
- 2.5.3 The Applicant will work with local community groups and other stakeholders to establish an appropriate community fund and delivery mechanism for the Wisbech area.

2.6 Sponsorship

- 2.6.1 All of MVV's UK operational sites offer a sponsorship fund, split between two rounds, and awarded in spring and autumn. Community groups are invited to apply for up to £1000 per project and funding is awarded on a points-based system, prioritising youth activities, partnership working, greener lifestyles and waste minimisation. This fund will be extended to the Proposed Development. Funding will be decided twice a year through a competitive application process as with the Applicant's existing projects at Plymouth, Dundee and Ridham.



2.7 Work with local Charities and Community Groups

- 2.7.1 Ecological enhancement measures have been implemented at MVV's EfW CHP facilities at Plymouth and Dundee, and at the biomass facility at Ridham Dock, Kent, where MVV work with the Kent Wildlife Trust.
- 2.7.2 At MVV's facility in Dundee, MVV worked in partnership with Dighty Connect (a volunteer-led local environmental conservation charity) to implement a scheme to create a flood alleviation area, a new woodland, removal of litter, eradication of non-native species, and creation of a wildlife corridor for otters and birds, including Kingfishers.
- 2.7.3 At MVV's Plymouth facility a commitment to enhancing an area adjacent to the facility known as 'Blackie Woods' which improved access for local residents to green space and enhanced biodiversity, continues. The staff at the Plymouth facility also hold an annual 'Clean the Creek' event which involves members of staff working with the local community to clean up Barne Brake and Weston Mill Creek, which run adjacent to the site. The photos below, are of staff and local residents who attended MVV's 2028 Clean the Creek event.

Graphic 2.3: Photographs of the 'Clean the Creek' event (2018)

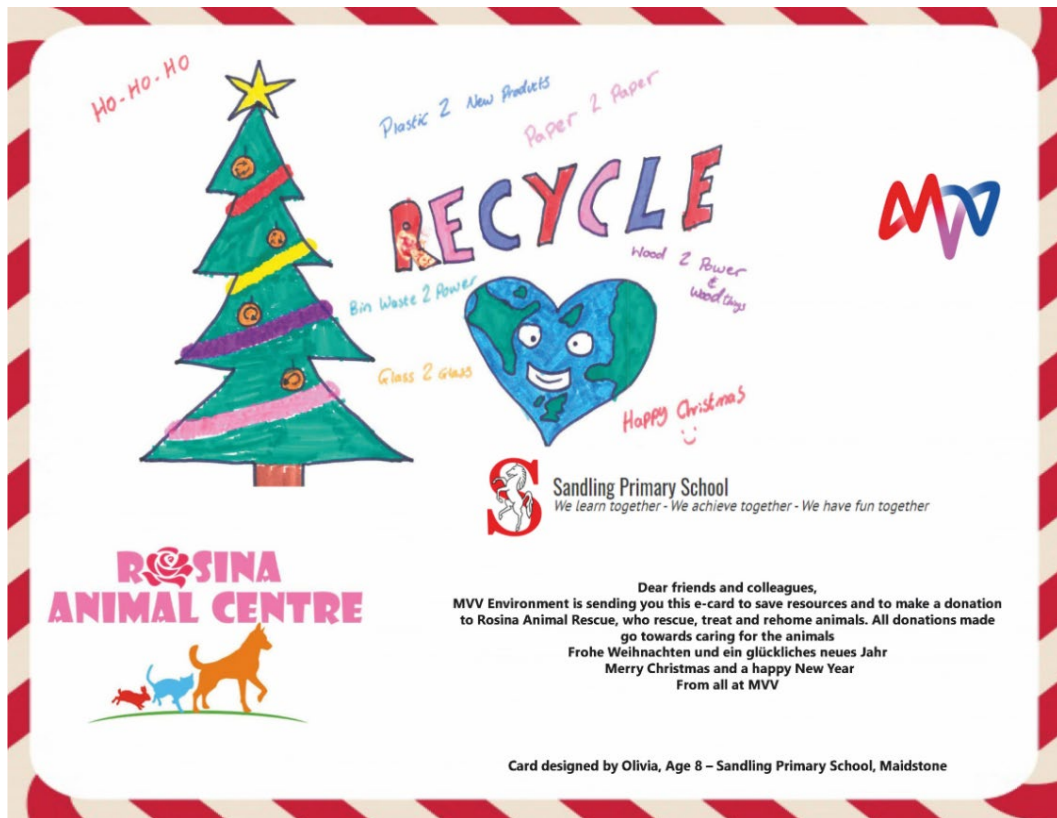




2.7.4

Every Christmas, to save precious resources, celebrate young talent and make a charitable donation, each operational site in turn runs a competition for local schoolchildren to design MVV's e-card. All MVV staff send this, in lieu of actual cards, and a donation is made to a local charity; there is a prize for the winning and runner-up designs.

Graphic 2.4: Winning Christmas Card 2021



2.8 Provision of Amenity Space

- 2.8.1 MVV's Plymouth facility is very close to residential properties so MVV decided to provide improved access to green spaces. In addition to the improved woodland adjacent to the site, MVV have provided a kick-about area and tree planting along a neighbouring residential road.
- 2.8.2 MVV works closely with Green Minds Plymouth and Devon Wildlife Trust to ensure long-term benefits to local people as well as to native flora and fauna. This includes appropriate planting, creation of wildflower meadows and development of nature corridors to connect green spaces for wildlife. These initiatives have enabled residents to secure 'change of use' from educational to public access for a disused school playing field (following the merging of two local primary schools); since being granted by the Secretary of State, this disused piece of land has been transformed into a multi-use public recreation space, including a small orchard of fruit trees.
- 2.8.3 For the Proposed Development, the Applicant will employ a full time Community Liaison Manager to engage with local wildlife organisations to develop partnerships. For example, the Applicant is aware that the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Wildlife Trusts, Wild Fowl and Wetlands Trust, and the RSPB are active in the local area.



2.9 Community Interest Companies (CICs)

- 2.9.1 Clean Our Patch CIC is a Plymouth-based organisation, run by a husband-and-wife team, organising community litter picks across the whole of Plymouth, and now spreading into Devon and Cornwall. MVV have supported them with various sponsorship awards, including litter picking equipment to start up new groups and development of a website and educational resources which are now being delivered in schools.
- 2.9.2 As a business patron of Pollenize CIC, MVV's Plymouth facility is now home to a colony of European native dark honey bees. Pollenize are working to conserve and extend populations of our native bee through pollen DNA analysis and AI technology. Their mission is to promote and protect all pollinator species by bridging the gap between people and science to provide tangible solutions for our climate emergency. This is MVV's most recent commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility; further opportunities are sought.
- 2.9.3 The scientific data extracted from this research beehive will be used to learn more about insect behaviour and inform how society can plant better for biodiversity.
- 2.9.4 For the Proposed Development, the Applicant will employ a full time Community Liaison Manager to engage with local community interest companies to develop partnerships. For example, the Applicant is aware that People and Animals UK, Wisbech Projects CIC and Youths of Fenland CIC are active in the local area.

2.10 Local networks

- 2.10.1 The Applicant's commitment to being a constructive part of the communities they serve is demonstrated through membership of local networking groups, relevant to MVV's corporate aims and the local area. For example, in Plymouth MVV are members of the Barne Barton and St Budeaux Partnership, which includes Social Housing providers, local policing, community centre managers, nurseries, schools, healthcare settings and Jobcentre Plus. This enables MVV to support local events with staff attendance, provision of raffle prizes and sponsorship, as well as sharing job opportunities as they arise – promoting these to local people in support of our Local Employment Scheme aims.
- 2.10.2 Environment Plymouth is a very active network, including businesses and schools who have made commitments to reducing single-use plastics in their organisation. They have achieved both Plastic Free Waterfront and Plastic Free City Status, awarded by Surfers Against Sewage, and MVV are proud to be a Business Pioneer and part of that achievement. Phase two of the Plastic Free Communities has now commenced and MVV continue to work with Environment Plymouth to develop an award scheme to encourage even more local engagement and action.
- 2.10.3 For the Proposed Development, the Applicant will employ a full time Community Liaison Manager to engage with and develop local networks. For example, the Applicant is aware of Cambridgeshire Acre's Wisbech CLLD project, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and Natural Cambridgeshire.



3. Summary of the Applicant's offer

- 3.1.1 The Applicant will work with local communities to identify a range of community benefits which may include:
- Establishment of a local liaison committee;
 - Employment of a Community Liaison Manager;
 - A visitor area within the Administration building;
 - Guided site tours;
 - Educational events including on waste reduction, promotion of the waste hierarchy, and STEM subjects;
 - Establishment of a community fund. The amount and scope to be agreed in discussion with the Liaison Committee, local authorities, and local community groups;
 - Establishment of a sponsorship fund;
 - Ecological enhancement and enhancement of public amenity to improve wellbeing;
 - Support for local initiatives that improve wellbeing, such as Active Fenland's 'Wellbeing Walks' and other networking groups and CICs described above; and
 - Support to other events and organisations, such as those described above, with the aim of reducing litter and supporting further environmental improvements in the local area.
- 3.1.2 This document is an outline Community Benefits Strategy, and the final Community Benefits Strategy will be published by the Applicant prior to commencement of the construction of the Proposed Development. The Applicant is keen to continue working in partnership with Local Authorities, local educational establishments, and local community groups to refine this document and ensure that the community benefits provided are relevant to the local area in and around Wisbech.



Appendix A

Safety, Quality, Wellbeing, Energy, Environment, Community and Health Policy (SQWEECH) Policy



MVV ENVIRONMENT LIMITED

OUR VISION is to operate the most efficient energy from waste combined heat and power plants in the UK to achieve the greatest benefit to our communities, the environment and our shareholders.

Energy performance aspects associated with the operation of our facility have been studied at design and development stages to ensure optimal energy performance levels are achieved at all times through efficient maintenance and operation.

MVV Environment Limited is a UK based subsidiary of MVV Umwelt GmbH. Our plants at Baldovie, Devonport and Ridham make use of waste that cannot reasonably be reused, recycled or composted to produce energy in the form of electricity and heat.

We are committed to delivering our services in a professional way that exceeds the needs and expectations of our customers, local communities and other stakeholders in a sustainable manner. We are committed to continual improvement to achieve business distinction whilst providing employees and visitors with a safe working environment and minimising the environmental impact of our activities.

We provide a framework for setting key business objectives applicable to safety, quality, wellbeing, energy, environment, the community and health. The framework will ensure that Top Management are committed to the continual improvement of the management system and that all objectives are 'SMART', these are reviewed at least annually for continued suitability.

QUALITY

We will achieve business distinction and high quality by:

- Establishing the right **business objectives and targets** to achieve the best results,
- **Improving our performance** by obtaining feedback from our customers and local communities,
- Ensuring a **high standard** of service response to feedback,
- Managing and **communicating** our quality strategies, performance and policy internally and to interested parties,
- Building performance **capability** through structured programmes that develop technical skills and increase awareness of quality issues amongst our staff and contractors,
- Ensuring **sustainable quality performance** through implementation and certification of an effective quality management system compliant with the international standard ISO 9001,

Complying with all applicable legal, contractual, and other requirements, identified by the company to fulfil our interested parties needs and expectations.

ENVIRONMENT • ENERGY

We are committed to improvement in environmental performance, operations, environmental protection, and minimisation of our overall environmental impact. In order to achieve this, we will:

- **Assess** the environmental effects of our activities and operations,
- **Assess and analyse** energy use and consumption with a view to identifying opportunities for improving energy performance,
- **Develop and maintain** a management system which is compliant with the international standards ISO 14001 and ISO50001, integrated with the quality and health and safety elements of our business,
- Set specific **targets and performance indicators** related to significant environmental aspects and areas of significant energy use of our business,
- **Comply** with legal, contractual, and corporate obligations and approved codes of practice related to our environmental aspects, energy use, consumption and efficiency, while co-operating fully and maintaining open relationships with all relevant statutory authorities to ensure the prevention of pollution from our activities,
- **Communicate** our environmental aims and objectives to employees and relevant stakeholders,
- **Train** our staff and raise employee awareness of environmental and energy efficiency matters,
- **Encourage** customers and suppliers to adopt practices which are consistent with our Policy and objectives,
- **Implement** a process for procurement and purchasing of energy efficient products and services,
- Provide the necessary **resources** and obtain the required information to achieve the company's strategic objectives and targets.

HEALTH • SAFETY • WELLBEING

We will regularly assess and improve our operating practices in relation to the health and safety of our employees, contractors, visitors and customers by:

- Implementing and maintaining a company wide Health & Safety Policy
- Providing all employees with sufficient information, **instruction, training, supervision** and feedback to enable them to carry out their duties effectively and safely; to continually assess and appreciate risk; and to improve health & safety performance,
- **Informing** all contractors who visit our site of their health and safety responsibilities, their potential impacts, and the main hazards on the site and within their areas of work,
- Documenting and updating **risk assessments** for all our business activities, plant and equipment,
- Raising **emergency plans** for accidents, fire, spillages and dangerous occurrences and conduct training and practice sessions,
- Regularly **inspecting** the site and its activities, and promptly rectifying findings that could pose a risk to health and safety or compromise fire safety precautions,
- **Monitoring and reporting** on accidents and incidents regarding Health and Safety and holding regular meetings with relevant staff to discuss the above and any other pertinent issues,
- Providing **work environment** surveys to identify and implement improvements related to the condition of the workplace, communication, and professional relationships, optimising motivation and retention levels.

COMMUNITY

We aim to engage with local communities in the vicinity of our Plants on a number of levels relevant to the context of each development. This commitment will involve some or all of the following measures:

- Stakeholder **consultation** throughout any necessary planning process,
- Continuation of a **Local Liaison Committee**,
- **Employment** opportunities for local people,
- **Training and education** for staff and the wider community,
- Links with local schools, colleges, and Universities to provide **work experience, placement, and apprenticeship** opportunities,
- Delivery of an **education programme** relating to resource and waste management,
- Hosting **Site visits** for interested parties
- Purpose-built **visitor facilities** within the administration area of the Plant for schools and community workshops,
- Support for local **community projects**, especially where these align with our business aims.

Paul Carey
Director

Peter Knapp
Director

Mike Turner
Director

