



Household waste facility opens in Wicklow

Company: Greenstar

Done Deal: €20 million

Turnover: €165 million

Staff: 700

Established: 1999

Elaine O'Regan



Waste company Greenstar has opened a new €20 million facility in Wicklow as part of a larger plan to invest €250 million in waste infrastructure over the next three years.

The company's new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), built on the grounds of an existing recycling plant for dry materials in Fassaroe in Bray, opened its doors earlier this month.

Totalling 4,050 square

metres, it includes a new purpose-built facility for processing commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste. A separate 1,600-square-metre building will be used to recycle dry materials. There is also 450 square metres of office space.

The facility, built over an eighteen-month period, will employ 150 of Greenstar's 700 staff.

"The state-of-the-art commercial and industrial (C&I) waste line is now fully automated and will be able to process ten different types of recyclable materials, including paper, cardboard, plastics, wood, stone and metals. This will increase recycling rates from 42 per cent to 70 per cent for C&I waste," said Steve Cowman, chief executive, Greenstar.

The facility's dry mixed recyclables line will process 25,000 tonnes of commercial and household green bin waste per annum.

Cowman said construction

and demolition waste, which will also be processed at the new facility, accounted for 55 per cent of all waste generated in Ireland annually. "Only 36 per cent of the non-stone and soil fraction of this waste was recycled nationally in 2006, the latest year for which data is available, down from 43 per cent in 2005," he said.

The facility will process household waste for the company's Wicklow-based domestic customers. "It will also be of benefit to our business customers who are very focused on the environment and their waste compliance, helping them to meet their environmental targets and lower costs," Cowman said.

"Best-in-class technology allows automated separation of materials, including aluminium and steel cans, paper, cardboard, plastics and steel. This permits 90 per cent recovery rates and a higher quality of material at the end of the process."

Landfill waste diverted to

the site will total 135,000 tonnes annually. Investment in the new facility brings to €275 million Greenstar's total investment in the waste sector over a seven-year period.

"This is an important part of Greenstar's strategy of ensuring that all Greenstar facilities use the best available technologies to ensure maximum recovery rates and operational efficiencies," said Cowman.

€3.5 million of the investment went towards the construction of a new 'green' office for the facility's 130 staff. Energy-efficient innovations include solar panels to heat water and a natural gas engine to power air conditioning. A combined heat and power plant will generate electricity and thermal energy for the building in a single, integrated system.

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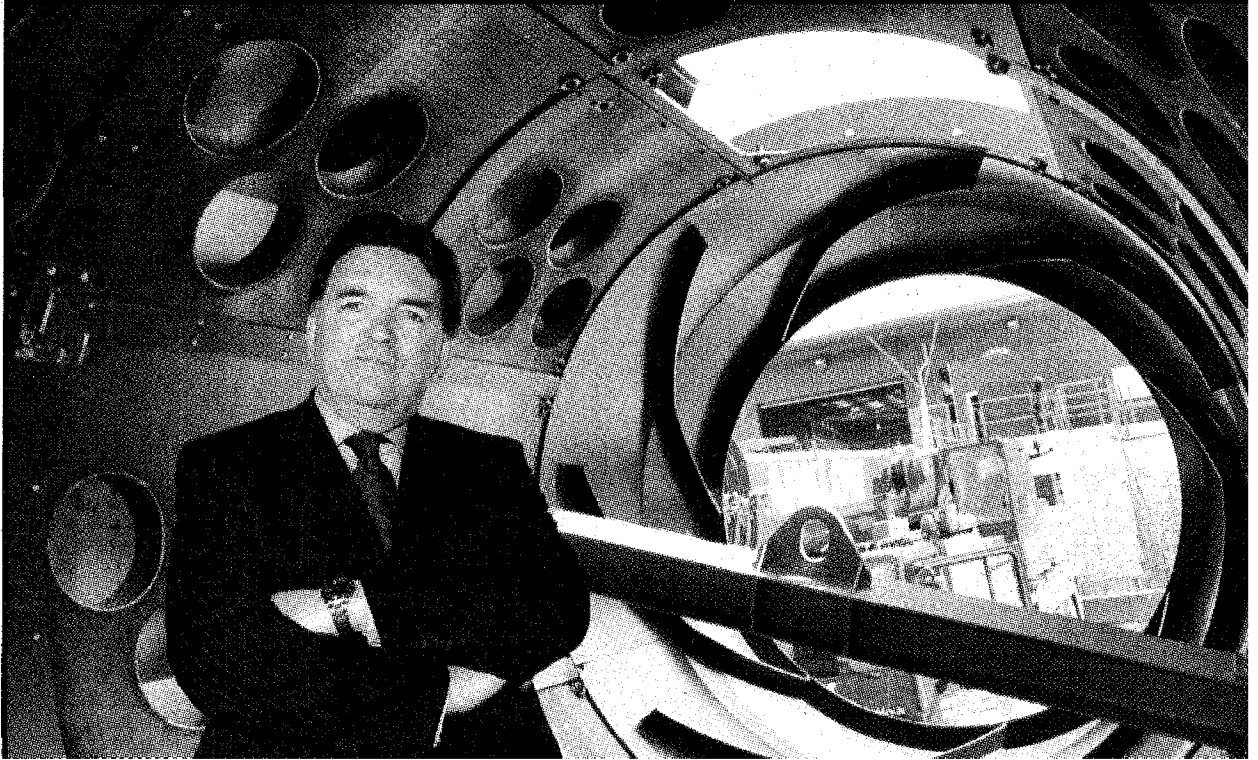
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Author: Elaine O'Regan

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Steve Cowman, chief executive, Greenstar: construction and demolition waste accounts for 55 per cent of all waste