



# Greenstar makes pioneering €20m revamp of Bray facility

IRELAND'S largest waste management company, Greenstar, has set a sustainable energy headline with a €20m redevelopment of its materials recycling facility in Bray, Co Wicklow.

The project includes a pioneering new 'green' office for the facility's 130 staff. Cutting edge, energy-efficient design innovations include the installation of solar panels to heat the building's water and a natural gas engine to power its air conditioning system.

Materials recovered from construction and demolition waste have been used in the foundations of the building. In addition, a combined heat and power plant (CHP) will generate electricity and thermal energy in a single, integrated system.

Designed by Martin Murray Architects and built by MDY Construction, the new 'green' office building accounts for around €3.5m of the overall €20m investment package. The CHP plant qualified for a 'green' grant from Sustainable Energy Ireland.

The expanded recycling facility - which will accept waste from the Greater Dublin area - was officially opened last week. Site operations manager Sara Smyth explains that the new facility will divert a projected 135,000 tonnes of waste from landfill every year and brings Greenstar's investment in the waste sector to €275m over the past seven years.

The state-of-the-art commercial and industrial waste line is now fully automated and able to process 10 different types of recyclable materials including paper, cardboard, plastics, wood, stone and metals. This will increase recycling rates from 42pc to 70pc for this type of waste.

It will also have the ability to recycle 95pc of construction and demolition waste. This type of waste currently accounts for 55pc of all waste generated in Ireland, but only 36pc 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 43pc in 2005.

The facility also features a

new, automated, dry mixed recyclables line which will process 25,000 tonnes of commercial and household green bin waste each year.

Greenstar chief executive officer Steve Cowman commented: "This investment is an important part of our strategy of ensuring that all our facilities use the best available technologies to ensure maximum recovery rates and operational efficiencies.

"This continuing investment by Greenstar is going some way towards addressing the country's critical lack of waste infrastructure. However, if Ireland is serious about meeting its EU waste targets before the looming 2010 deadline, then the Government needs to create the right regulatory environment to encourage investment in alternative, viable technologies such as mechanical biological treatment.

"Greenstar has earmarked over €100m for investment in MBT in the next three years. If the Government acts, so too will the private sector."

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Site operations manager of the Bray recycling plant, Sara Smyth, explains that the new, redeveloped facility will divert a projected 135,000 tonnes of waste from landfill every year