

Melrose Farm:

EnviTec Biogas plant transforms slurry management and boosts income

Location: Melbourne, Yorkshire

Capacity: 499 kWe

Feedstock: pig slurry, maize silage and grass silage

Input volume: 8000 tonnes of pig slurry plus 8000 tonnes of silage per year

Commissioned: 2012

Highlights: five-year return on investment expected, business planning predictability, slurry lagoon storage eliminated, long-term revenues from Feed in Tariffs

Revenue growth and quick ROI from EnviTec Biogas UK anaerobic digestion unit

Managers at Melrose Pigs and sister company Northern Crop Driers are benefiting from a 499 kWe anaerobic digestion facility planned, built and commissioned by EnviTec Biogas UK.

The unit is fed with slurry from Melrose's finisher pigs as well as maize silage and grass silage from Northern Crop Driers. Electricity produced by the system is used on site, while the surplus is sold to the grid – attracting long-term, predictable revenues and incentives under the Feed in Tariffs scheme. This has helped to counter fluctuating pork prices and enabled directors to make investment decisions based on reliable income projections.

Benefits of farm-scale anaerobic digestion plants go well beyond income from electricity generation. At Melrose, for example, the lagoon no longer has to be used for slurry storage, reducing odour. The slurry is processed and cleaned before it is used, and the digestate left at the end of the operation is used as an organic fertiliser.

At Northern Crop Driers, meanwhile, significant savings are being made by reducing the costs involved in the energy-intensive process of drying grass to produce feed for horses.

Anaerobic digestion plants are ideal for many pig farms, opening up revenue streams, transforming slurry management and demonstrating a commitment to sustainability to the surrounding community.

Melrose is expecting its investment to be paid back within five years.

EnviTec Biogas worked with its partners every step of the way to deliver a facility tailored to the customer's needs.

EnviTec Biogas UK specialises in helping farm businesses increase revenues and save money by turning crops, slurry and forage into renewable energy. Anaerobic digestion plants produce heat and electricity that can be used in-house or sold to the grid. Energy produced by anaerobic digestion attracts long-term, significant income from government environmental incentives such as the Feed in Tariffs.

EnviTec Biogas is one of the world leaders in its field. From its base in Staffordshire, EnviTec Biogas UK plans, builds, runs and services anaerobic digestion plants across the country. Contact details (UK only and to be in 01889 584459 format rather than +44 18 89 etc.) e-mail: info-uk@envitec-biogas.com