

## **Station Works: income from green energy helps farm business grow**

**Location:** Station Works, Thaxted, Essex

**Capacity:** 1067 kW<sub>e</sub>

**Feedstock:** maize and farm residues

**Input volume:** 20,000 tonnes a year

**Commissioned:** 2012

**Highlights:** Long-term, stable income from Feed in Tariffs, short return on investment, soil improvement, crop diversity

### **Income and land improvement from EnviTec Biogas anaerobic digestion unit**

EnviTec Biogas worked with business managers at Station Works to plan, build and commission an anaerobic digestion facility that has opened up new revenue streams and paved the way for crop diversification.

Station Works is producing its own electricity and selling the surplus to the grid thanks to the 1MW green energy unit. The Essex farm business uses locally-grown maize to produce electricity that is used on the farm, with the surplus being sold under the Feed in Tariffs.

The considerable savings from farm-produced renewable energy and the significant income from exporting power will see a return on investment in about five years. Long-term, fixed incentives under the Feed in Tariffs are helping business planning and countering the volatility of wheat prices.

Meanwhile the digestate produced is a high-quality organic fertiliser, and up to 90 per cent of input materials are put spread onto the land at the end of the process. This cuts fertiliser costs, while the organic matter improves soil condition and moisture retention – vital advantages in intensively farmed, relatively dry arable areas.

In addition, biogas production makes it economically beneficial to grow break crops like maize, especially in heavy arable areas such as the South East where there wouldn't otherwise be an opportunity or reason to grow them.

Green energy production can also be a powerful part of the marketing mix, helping to win orders from top-tier buyers and gaining goodwill from the surrounding community.

EnviTec Biogas worked with its partners every step of the way to deliver a facility tailored to the business'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 generated 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](mailto:info-uk@envitec-biogas.com)**