

## **Energy from Waste initiative update - Cabinet decision on 14th September 2009 (Media Release from BCC)**

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We have been able to bring forward the date when Cabinet will select a preferred bidder for the Energy from Waste Procurement Project.

Earlier this month, the decision date had to be deferred to enable final legal, financial and technical appraisals and checks to take place. However, these due diligence processes have been completed earlier than expected and the Cabinet will now be able to announce a preferred bidder from either Covanta Energy or WRG on Monday 14 September 2009.

Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, Cllr Martin Tett, said:

"I am pleased that we're able to select a preferred bidder earlier than we expected. On the 14th September, the County Council's Cabinet will select a single bidder which will have put forward the most robust Energy from Waste solution to divert non-recyclable or compostable waste away from landfill.

"Landfilling waste is not only environmentally damaging, it's also subject to increasingly punitive fines and taxes which our Council Tax payers will have to pay. This is why an alternative to landfilling municipal waste is urgently needed.

"I hope that this decision will give local residents clarity and certainty on the preferred bidder, the location of their proposed Energy from Waste facility and associated infrastructure. Before making this announcement public, we spoke with the opposition campaign group SAVI, numerous local councillors and John Bercow MP, so they were the first to know of our change of date. This will enable those wishing to oppose any aspect of the decision to plan any rallies and petitions in good time ahead of the mid-September decision. We have specifically avoided making any decision during August as it is the holiday season and we felt that it would be unfair to interested parties who might be away."

The process for selecting a preferred bidder is based on thorough assessments of the final tenders submitted by both companies to the County Council, which have been evaluated using pre-agreed criteria.