

Press release



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Green food super production centre planned for Royal Wootton Bassett

A radical new development, which has the potential to see landfill sites across the country transformed into low-cost energy and affordable fruit and vegetable super production centres, is being proposed by Wiltshire-based Crapper and Sons Landfill Limited as part of the future vision for its Royal Wootton Bassett site.

The cutting-edge, climate friendly 'Sustain Initiative', which will be detailed as part of a public consultation due to take place in December, plans to use methane generated by its landfill site to power and heat positively pressured inflatable greenhouses. These will be used to produce affordable fruit and vegetables for the local community year-round, resulting in the creation of up to 130 new jobs.

Based on the concept of the ancient midden where waste, including animal dung, would be piled outside homes to break down, providing heat, material to burn and composted biomass, the Sustain 'Super-Midden' is designed to turn landfill sites into energy, heat, food, and fertiliser generating centres for the benefit of the local community.

Under the proposed plans landfill methane, which is currently safely tapped and burnt off, will power engines to generate electricity and heat. In a world-first, this will be used to keep flexible greenhouses situated on the sealed landfill cells at a perfect growing temperature for horticulture throughout the year.

These positively pressured greenhouses are engineered to flex with the movement of the landfill as it settles. Fully encapsulated, they are isolated from the landfill and the environment, preventing the ingress of contaminants, pests or disease.

CO₂, produced as a by-product of the energy from gas process, will be fed directly into the greenhouses to enhance and control the growing environment.

Aided by ultraviolet light, ripening can be accelerated or slowed down to meet local demand. This allows the growing season to be extended year-round, enabling multi-cropping and harvesting of everything from lettuce to avocados.

Sustain's circular solution will see its greenhouses produce just-in-time, demand-based fruit and vegetables using advanced modelling technology to manage planting, levels of heat, light and CO₂.

Minimising the need for storage and food miles, produce will be delivered to the doorstep alongside dairy products and meat from local farmers.

The aim is for the proposed greenhouses at the Brinkworth Road site to supply 80% of all fruit and vegetable requirements for Wootton Bassett, Malmesbury, Purton and Brinkworth, consuming up to 4,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year; equivalent to boiling 57 million kettles of water.

In time, food waste will be collected for anaerobic digestion when the food deliveries are made. This will be used to generate low-cost energy and fertiliser for use in the greenhouses, perpetuating the sustainable circular solution.

Spare electricity from the methane-to-energy, and energy from waste plants will be used to support green industrial development and recycling, providing high quality local employment.

Full details of the proposed plans for the Super-Midden at the Brinkworth Road site, will be shared with the local community at two public consultation events. These will take place at Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Football Club on Monday 04 December (1pm-8pm), and at Memorial Hall Station Rd, Royal Wootton Bassett on Saturday 09 December (10am-3pm).

Commenting on the Sustain vision, Richard Crapper, Managing Director of Crapper and Sons Landfill Ltd, said: "Over the years we have worked hard to support our local community. The Sustain Super-Midden plans for the site at Brinkworth Road are the next stage of that legacy.

"Our goal is to transform the way landfill sites are utilised so that they become one of the most climate-friendly methods of waste disposal. This is made possible by repurposing and reusing landfill cells once they become full, adopting cutting edge technology to create affordable, just-in-time food, through a process that consumes more carbon than it produces.

"The green food Super-Midden production centre will be owned and operated by a Community Interest Company, which will return profit to the local community in the form of grants for community projects."

Richard Crapper added: "All this is possible within the footprint of our existing site, but the really exciting part is that this solution has the potential to be replicated across the country, addressing the unsustainable practice of importing out-of-season produce from all over the world.

"Adopted nationwide, our Super-Midden solution could alleviate food shortages, provide cheap power to local communities and help to address the cost-of-living crisis, all by generating affordable, freshly harvested, non-warehoused produce at a lower cost than the major supermarkets.

"It's all part of our wider Sustain vision that aims to create sustainable working environments and communities of the future."

Visitors to the public consultations will be able to share their views on the Sustain Super-Midden plans via a feedback form. For those who are unable to attend the event, information about the

proposed plans and an online feedback form will be available from 04 December on <https://sustainwiltshire.co.uk>

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Editor's notes:

About Sustain:

- Sustain is a new initiative founded by Crapper and Sons Landfill Ltd, a family run business that has been providing landfill and sustainable solutions to its local communities for over 40 years.
- Based on the outskirts of Wootton Bassett, Sustain aligns with the core values of Crapper and Sons Landfill Ltd, which is committed to recycling, reusing and repurposing. Its goals are to deliver sustainable food, energy, employment and living to its local community.
- Sustain's mission is to have positive impact on communities and places. This includes providing affordable food, improving the quality, availability and sustainability of new homes built around existing towns, and enhancing employment opportunities by providing sustainable heat and power, and eco-workplaces.
- Transforming landfill sites into climate friendly food, heating and energy centres, owned by Community Interest Companies, Sustain's Super-Midden concept is a revolutionary new solution that could change the face of the landfill sector globally, turning existing landfill sites into one of the most climate-friendly, carbon negative methods of waste disposal.