



Press release  
24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility getting ready for the next phase of commissioning and first waste deliveries**

- The next phase of commissioning will start by end May 2019 with the refractory dry out
- Commissioning is an essential and standard element of testing for all Energy from Waste facilities
- The tests will see all systems running to maximum capacity to verify that all equipment is ready for operation
- First deliveries of waste have been scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> June

Urbaser Balfour Beatty Gloucestershire has announced that the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility is now preparing to enter the next commissioning phase. This significant construction milestone will begin to commence by the end of May, and is a statutory requirement of all Energy from Waste facilities before it can commence operations. Urbaser Balfour Beatty Gloucestershire will receive its first deliveries of waste from June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioning is a series of tests undertaken in logical order. The next phase will involve testing of systems, including the drying out of the refractory and steam blowing alongside others. Once these are completed and signed off, the facility will test the full operational system using waste as a fuel.

Each phase of the commissioning process is interdependent, with the preceding test informing the timing of subsequent tests. After analysing data and measuring performance, Urbaser Balfour Beatty Gloucestershire will receive the first deliveries of waste on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, with all additional deliveries starting within a week of that date.

The tests are not representative of daily operations but will confirm that the equipment is working correctly and safely, and operations are able to commence this summer.

Commenting on this milestone, Craig Kirk, Project Commercial Director, Urbaser Balfour Beatty Gloucestershire said:

“Commissioning is a routine element of construction for power facilities such as the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility. It is not a time exact science as there are many elements to it, particularly in a complex engineering build such as this. Each week, we analyse performance and as a result make adjustments to the process and scheduling in order to make the facility ready for operations. It is critically important that we test that all the equipment and processes are working as they should before

the facility is operational. As part of this, we are working with the Environment Agency who are monitoring the performance throughout.”

This phase starts with the pre-prep tests involving the drying out of the refractory and steam blowing, leading to the first firing of waste, both of which may emit a noise and a plume of steam which may be noticeable in close proximity to the site.

Commissioning will be complete once the facility has met the conditions and limits as set in the Environmental Permit, having been monitored by the Environment Agency throughout the process. At this point, the facility will be certified and approved for full operational use.

For more information and to read the commissioning FAQs, please visit [www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk](http://www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk)

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**Notes to editors**

**For all media enquiries, please contact Caroline Macdonald**

**07970 233490**

**[caroline@oggadoon.co.uk](mailto:caroline@oggadoon.co.uk)**

#### **About Gloucestershire Energy from Waste**

The Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility is designed to significantly reduce the amount of municipal waste landfilled in Gloucestershire by using tried and tested technology whilst complementing the county's reduce, reuse and recycling activities.

Aside from treating residual waste, which cannot readily be recycled or composted, the facility will generate the equivalent electricity to power 25,000 homes and divert over 90% of Gloucestershire's waste from landfill. Gloucestershire County Council has estimated that the new residual waste facility will save the Council £100 million over the 25-year contract compared with landfill. More information can be found in the FAQs on the website: <https://www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk/construction-faqs/>

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#### **About Urbaser**

A leader in environmental services, Urbaser Ltd. provides municipal waste treatment and recovery services to residents throughout the UK. Operations are focused on conserving resources, carbon reduction, and delivering a circular economy. **Urbaser Ltd.'s** parent company, Urbaser S.A.U, is based in Spain and has extensive experience in the provision of environmental services both nationally and internationally. It is the third largest environmental services provider in Europe, providing high profile waste treatment, waste and recycling collection, street cleansing, and grounds maintenance services in cities including Barcelona, Madrid, Paris, Porto, and London. In addition, there are comparable operations across Asia, North Africa, and South America. For more information visit [www.urbaser.co.uk](http://www.urbaser.co.uk)

#### **About Balfour Beatty**

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Our main geographies are the UK, US and Hong Kong. Over the last 100 years we have created iconic buildings and infrastructure all over the world including the London Olympics' Aquatic Centre, Hong Kong's first Zero Carbon building, the National Museum of the Marine Corps in the US and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.