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Sutton secures Government award for low carbon heat network study

By [Comms Department](#) · January 30, 2014 ·

Homes and businesses in Sutton could soon be heated by energy from waste after Sutton Council was successful in securing Government funding into extending a planned heat network.

During a visit to the borough today, Energy and Climate Change Secretary Edward Davey announced that Sutton had been successful in its DECC bid for £101,000 to develop the opportunity of using energy generated by the planned Energy Recovery Facility in Hackbridge to heat nearby homes.

The facility will open in 2017, and it will take up to 302,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste from Sutton (51,000 tonnes), Croydon, Merton and Kingston every year. This heat generated could ultimately serve around 19,000 homes (20% of Sutton households) and save 10% of Sutton's CO₂ emissions.

Sutton Council will now work with Sutton-based international sustainability charity BioRegional to develop plans.

The announcement provides the opportunity to achieve Sutton's ambitious environmental targets and expand Hackbridge's achievements as a sustainable suburb. The council will also contribute £50,000 to the project.

EdDaveyvisitsBioRegionalatBedZED001

Sutton became the first 'One Planet' borough in 2009 when it worked with BioRegional to develop a 'One Planet' plan to give residents a better quality of life and boost the local economy while radically reducing the borough's negative impact on the environment.

The Council has set itself targets of being a zero carbon borough as early as 2025, increasing space for wildlife and increasing the amount of food grown within the borough.

During his visit to Sutton, Mr Davey was given a tour of BedZed (Beddington Zero Energy Development) in Hackbridge, which is the UK's first large-scale mixed use sustainable community, with 100 homes, office space for around 100 workers and community facilities.

Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of Sutton Council's Housing, Economy and Business Committee, said:

"We are delighted by today's announcement which it allows us to expand a project that would not only tackle climate change, but would reduce fuel poverty and increase fuel security in Sutton.

Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of Sutton Council's Environment and Neighbourhood Committee, said:

"Sutton became the first One Planet borough in 2009 and is one of only a few councils to achieve this status. We are continuing to innovate when it comes to building sustainable communities, and this project will help us meet our target of being a greener and better place to live.

BioRegional's Chief Executive Sue Riddlestone said:

"The heat network could give many Sutton people a secure, affordable way to heat their homes and make big cuts in their carbon emissions. We want it to connect not only to new homes but existing homes and work places, together with insulation to make the heat go further and keep costs down. We're delighted Ed Davey came by to tell us that DECC is joining with Sutton in supporting further work planning this heat network"

"How we deal with waste is an issue for all of us; we need to recycle more. An energy recovery facility is better for the local economy and the environment than the huge landfill it will replace and it's good that Sutton is pushing for the heat to be used for local benefit rather than being wasted."

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Edward Davey said:

"In urban areas, people are often used to sharing their walls and their roofs with their neighbours – and it can make good sense for them to share the way their homes are heated.

"This cash boost and support will help supply low carbon heat to a whole range of buildings such as multi-story apartments, office buildings and social housing – not only providing more efficient heat to buildings, but potentially bringing heating bills down too."

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