



Harper Adams University

Submission

The anaerobic digestion project with which Harper Adams University College won this award can perhaps best be described as a lot of hot air.

The institution's recycling of waste products to produce methane, which is harnessed to run a combined heat and power engine that produces electricity and heat, has overcome skepticism from the local community to produce a successful project expected to reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions from Harper Adams by around 14,500 tonnes.

Funding for the system was provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Salix Revolving Green Fund.

Work began on its development in April 2009, and the system began producing electricity from the waste products in April this year.

The anaerobic digestion project is such an effective one that it will allow the institution to reach its strategic carbon reduction targets to 2020.

Patrick Finch, bursar and director of estates at the University of Bristol, past chairman of the Association of University Directors of Estates and one of the judges, said: "Harper Adams has produced a groundbreaking project.

"While this has been trialed before, the judges felt that the work on developing a system that would produce a step change in carbon management at the college had the potential for wider application in the higher education community and in the farming sector.

"Energy and carbon savings, reduction in waste to landfill and release of farmland for growing food crops together present a compelling case."