

# Riverside Resource Recovery Facility, Belvedere Permit Variation

The operators of Riverside Resource Recovery Facility have applied to the Environment Agency to vary the site's current operational permit.

This will allow increased energy generation, an increase in the maximum amount of waste going through the system, and the use of more raw materials.

After the earlier public consultation in 2021 on their initial variation application, the Environment Agency is 'minded to' issue the permit variation. Before making its final decision, it is running a further period of public consultation for people and organisations to submit their views.

The consultation is now open and will run until Tuesday 9 August 2022.

See [further information on the permit application, with details of how to take part in the consultation](#)

## **Permit variation**

If granted, the environmental permit variation will allow Riverside Resource Recovery Limited to:

- Amend the energy generation limit from up to 72MW to 'up to 80.5MW;
- Increase the maximum amount of waste going through the system from 785,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 850,000 tpa;
- Increase the annual amounts of some raw materials used.

Under the variation emission limit, values for releases to air will be reduced. This is due to the current technology of combustion control, abatement and monitoring which can achieve, and accurately monitor, much lower levels of emissions.

These changes together are called the Riverside Optimisation Project, or ROP.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said:

An environmental permit sets out stringent conditions that all waste sites must adhere to. We will not issue an environmental permit for a site if we consider that activities taking place will cause significant pollution to the environment or harm to human health.

Public consultation lets people and organisations take part in our decision making. We welcome specifically, comments on environmental and health issues and where people have particular local knowledge. We take all relevant comments into account when making our decisions.

When making permit decisions, we use information on the potential environmental and human health impacts of the activity.

In deciding whether or not to issue the permit, the Environment Agency will take into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

For further information, please email [KSLE@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:KSLE@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Further information

See [additional information on how when and how the Environment Agency consults on permit applications and standard rules for environmental permits](#)

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# [Health and Social Care Secretary accepts JCVI advice on autumn booster programme](#)

Press release

All people aged 50 and over will be eligible for autumn Covid booster and flu vaccine



Health and Social Care Secretary Steve Barclay said:

I have accepted the independent advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to offer an autumn Covid booster to people aged 50 and over, residents and staff in care homes for older adults, frontline health and social care workers, unpaid carers, individuals aged five to 49 in clinical risk groups and household contacts of those who are immunosuppressed.

NHS staff and volunteers provided an outstanding service to the public through the biggest and fastest vaccination rollout in England's history, which saved countless lives and allowed us to live with this virus without restrictions on our freedom.

Viruses spread more easily in the colder seasons with people socialising inside, so the risk of getting Covid is higher. It is absolutely vital the most vulnerable groups receive a booster vaccine to strengthen their immunity against serious disease over winter to protect themselves and reduce pressure on the NHS.

The flu virus could also be highly infectious at this time of year, so today I am also announcing that those eligible for a free flu vaccination this year will include everyone aged 50 and over, primary school children and secondary school pupils in years 7, 8 and 9, as well as people in clinical risk groups, unpaid carers and household contacts of those who are immunosuppressed.

If you or your child are eligible for a Covid or flu vaccine, I urge you to come forward as soon as you are invited by the NHS.

#### BACKGROUND:

Further information is available [here](#)

#### Covid

- The programme is expected to start in early autumn. Details of how the programme will be delivered including how people will be invited for vaccination will be set out nearer the start of the programme.
- The definition of frontline health and social care workers is published in the [Green Book](#)
- Clinical risk groups are set out in the [Green Book](#) – Tables 3 and 4
- The definition of carers aged 16 to 49 years is set out in the [Green Book](#) – Table 3

#### Influenza

The groups that are now eligible for the flu vaccine this coming season are:

- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2022
- all primary school aged children (from reception to Year 6)
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline staff employed by the following types of social care providers without employer led occupational health schemes:
  - a registered residential care or nursing home
  - registered domiciliary care provider
  - a voluntary managed hospice provider
- Direct Payment (personal budgets) or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants

And later in the season:

- All adults aged 50 to 64 years
- Secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9, who will be offered the vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first)
- The flu vaccine programme outlined above applies to England only

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## **Boost for North East wildlife charity as Newcastle haulier makes amends for environmental offence**

Press release

A Newcastle based supplier and Haulier of quarried and recycled aggregates has agreed to pay £9,872 to Northumberland Wildlife Trust after it was found to have illegally deposited waste soils and clays at an old quarry on farmland in Longframlington.



Thorburn Bros Limited of Benton Square Industrial Estate, Newcastle, submitted an Enforcement Undertaking to the Environment Agency, after it failed to meet its environmental obligations by avoiding the costs of applying for an environmental permit, which it would have needed in order to carry out this tipping lawfully.

An Enforcement Undertaking is a voluntary offer made by companies and individuals to make amends for their offending.

The Environment Agency was made aware of large quantities of waste soils being taken from building sites to an old quarry on farmland in Longframlington in June 2018. The site was visited, and a continuous stream of waggons marked with Thorburn Bros Ltd's livery were seen depositing soil and clays, which were being levelled by a bulldozer.

Following a visit to Thorburn Bros Ltd's offices, the company produced evidence to show that they had deposited some 9,380 tonnes of waste soils at the quarry. The quarry was not covered by any environmental permit

An Environmental Permit, in this case, would have set out the operating conditions that Thorburn Bros would be legally bound to observe in order to minimise the risk of harm to people and the environment.

Area Environment Manager, Andrew Turner, said:

Illegally disposing of waste at a site that does not include the necessary infrastructure for managing and controlling pollution presents a real risk of harm to people and the environment.

In some circumstances, Enforcement Undertakings can achieve a good resolution of our enforcement action, allowing the offender to put things right and help to improve our environment. This payment of £9,872 will do just that by supporting environmental improvements at Northumberland Wildlife Trust's site at West Chevington, a former open-cast coal mine.

The offer from Thorburn Bros Limited detailed improvements to its administrative systems and training for its staff. This will help to avoid the risk of environmental offending.

## Over 50s to be offered COVID-19 booster and flu jab this autumn

On coronavirus (COVID-19) boosters, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has now published its final recommendations for this autumn's programme.

Under the advice, those eligible for a further dose will be:

- all adults aged 50 years and over
- those aged 5 to 49 years in a [clinical risk group](#), including pregnant women
- those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- those aged 16 to 49 years who are carers
- residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers

In addition, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will be widening the offer of the free flu vaccine to more eligible groups. These additional groups will only be eligible once the most vulnerable, including previously announced pre-school and primary school children, those aged 65 years and over and those in clinical risk groups, have been offered the jab.

The additional groups set to be offered the free flu vaccine in England will be:

- all adults aged 50 to 64 years
- secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9, who will be offered the vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first)

The NHS will announce in due course when and how eligible groups will be able to book an appointment for their COVID-19 autumn booster, and when people aged 50 to 64 years old who are not in a clinical risk group will be able to get their free flu jab.

People in these groups are asked not to come forward until further information is announced.

Commenting on the autumn COVID-19 booster programme, Professor Anthony Harnden, Deputy Chair of the JCVI, said:

We have provided our final recommendations for the autumn programme

to ensure the NHS and wider health system has time to plan a vaccine rollout well ahead of the winter season.

The COVID-19 boosters are highly effective at increasing immunity and, by offering a further dose to those at higher risk of severe illness this autumn, we hope to significantly reduce the risk of hospitalisations and deaths over the winter.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at UKHSA, said:

Widening the eligibility for the flu vaccine will help reduce the number of people getting seriously ill and ease pressures on the NHS, particularly during the busy winter period.

It is also important that everyone eligible for the COVID-19 booster gets the jab when invited, including pregnant women, who are among those at higher risk. Having COVID-19 during pregnancy can lead to complications. Getting the vaccine, including a booster, offers the best possible protection for you and your baby.

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## [We must put into place the promises made at COP26 to keep 1.5 alive](#)

Thank you, Nick, and my congratulations as well on your OBE, and all you're doing on climate action.

So, friends, I joined last year to close London Climate Action Week.

And that week, you'll remember, saw a number of important announcements made, including the launch of the Net Zero Lawyers Alliance, and the expansion of the Powering Past Coal Alliance.

So, it is a real pleasure to be joining you again, and I very much hope we end this week with further, more ambitious commitments.

And it's great to see so many climate leaders coming together.

And as Nick has said, it's leaders from across London's government, business, youth, and civil society communities.

Each of you squarely focused on how this brilliant city can be at the heart of tackling the climate crisis.

That, for me, is leadership on climate action.

Now, I understand that today's first panel event will ask a simple, but actually vitally important question, which is:

"Are Glasgow's Promises Being Delivered?"

It is the question that drives me forward, literally every waking hour, this year, during our COP Presidency year.

If I look back to November, the Glasgow Climate Pact was forged, under the UK's stewardship, between almost 200 countries.

And it sets a path to a clean global future.

And I do think Glasgow was historic.

Because based on the commitments made in that Pact, and indeed through commitments outside the negotiating rooms as well, which some of you will have been involved in, we were able to say with credibility that we kept alive the prospect of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

As a result of the work done in the lead up to COP26, we've now got 90 percent of the global economy now covered by net zero targets.

When we took up the mantle of organising COP26, that was less than 30 percent.

The Glasgow Pact calls on countries to revisit and strengthen their 2030 emissions reduction targets, as necessary, to align with the Paris temperature goal, and to do that by the end of this year.

It urges developed countries to scale-up climate finance, and specifically to double finance for adaptation by 2025.

And it underlines the importance of adaptation, the dangers of loss and damage, and the need to scale-up action and support for both, whilst, at the same time, charting a way forward to do so.

Of course, we have to recognise the Glasgow Climate Pact has a whole range of other things it addressed, but I wanted to highlight the key ones.

And of course, the world has changed markedly in the months since COP26.

We meet against the backdrop of multiple global crises, much precipitated by the Putin regime's illegal, brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

And even as we deal with these challenges, the evidence on climate is unequivocal.

The chronic threat of climate change is getting worse. That is what the science tells us.

Climate impacts are compounding existing vulnerabilities, food, water, migration-related issues.



Loss and damage is already occurring.

Millions of lives and livelihoods are being affected.

The one thing we have begun to understand as a result of Putin's war, is that it amplifies the fact that climate and environmental security are totally interlinked, and are synonymous with energy and national security.

It is clear that the window of time we have left to act is closing.

And, frankly, it is closing fast.

It is critical, therefore, really critical, that we turn the commitments we made in Glasgow into action.

We have seen some progress made since COP26, on the commitments made in Glasgow.

So, what's the progress?

I think we've seen some. I'll go over some of the areas where we have.

13 new Nationally Determined Contributions, including one recently from our friends in Australia.

At the May Ministerial meeting I co-chaired in Copenhagen, bringing together almost 50 governments,

I have to say, I was encouraged by some of the statements made by countries looking actively at revisiting their NDC.

We've also had seven countries set out plans to revisit their emissions reduction targets at the recent Major Economies Forum, chaired by the US.

We've got 51 long-term strategies have now been submitted to the UNFCCC, including a number since Glasgow.

More than 2.5 billion people are now covered by adaptation plans.

And work is being done to scale up finance, and, through the Access to Finance Taskforce co-chaired by the UK and Fiji, we are working to make sure that the finance can reach the climate vulnerable countries that need it most.

We also saw progress on key work programmes at the intersessionals in Bonn this month.

So, if I were to sum all this up, Nick, I'd say the scorecard on the Glasgow Climate Pact reads: some progress made, but a lot more to do.

And we need to quicken the pace.

Every country must respond to the call to revisit and strengthen their NDC, and actually, particularly the G20, which, as we know, are collectively

responsible for 80% of global emissions.

They must do so not at some vague point in the future, but by September 23rd this year, which is the deadline set by the UNFCCC.

And more countries of course need to come forward to submit long-term strategies by that deadline too.

And the reasons for this are that NDCs have to be backed by credible policies that deliver on the commitments made in Glasgow.

From commitments on coal and cars, to trees and methane, to an acceleration of the shift to renewables, as well as the move to clean technologies, which are at the heart of the Glasgow Breakthrough Agenda, which we launched at COP26.

We also need developed countries and other climate finance providers to ensure that finance flows to national and local adaptation priorities, supporting developing nations' ambitions.

And that means further progress on delivering the \$100 billion a year, and, of course, on the commitment to double adaptation finance to \$40 billion by 2025.

This was a commitment made at COP and we have to honour it.

We must also get the Santiago Network operationalised by the time we get to COP27, and show progress on work on the Global Goal on Adaptation, and the Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage.

This may sound like a really large programme of work.

But it is what we agreed on delivering in Glasgow.

And, in some respects, this is just the start.

Looking ahead to COP27, and, indeed, beyond, we need to see faster progress on mobilising the trillions needed to put the world on a more sustainable footing.

So, that means, finance for developing countries.

For critical sectors.

For clean technologies.

Finance for our Just Energy Transition Partnerships too, such as the one we agreed for South Africa at COP26.

And these JETPs, as we call them, are mechanisms that tailor support to individual developing countries' energy transitions, helping to deliver national plans that keep the lights and the factories running, whilst at the same time driving progress towards a clean energy transition.

And, at the same time, supporting the very many thousands of people, who currently rely on fossil fuels for a living, to reskill and retrain.

And I have to say that, done right, these partnerships will have a profound impact around the world.

Just last week, I was in South Africa, and I had the opportunity to meet many Cabinet ministers, but I also met current miners and mining trade unions.

Their testimony was powerful.

It is vital that the transition to clean energy is done in a managed way, which protects livelihoods and provides retraining opportunities, and jobs for affected workers.

Above all, and I'm just being very frank about this, this is not about flicking a switch overnight.

It is about a carefully managed transition.

So, on JETPs, and across all the issues I have touched on here, we must continue to make progress.

And I am going to be using the remaining months of our COP26 Presidency to urge further action, through the G7, the G20, at the UN General Assembly, and during the second Climate and Development Ministerial in September, which the UK is going to be hosting in the margins of UNGA.

None of this work can be done without cities, local authorities, businesses, young people, and civil society by our side, making their own commitments, and driving us on.

Look at London.

This is a city which is, in very many ways, a big international powerhouse.

It provides the UK with huge social, economic, and cultural energy.

But as we are recognising through this gathering, the city is also responsible for a significant portion of total UK emissions.

So there is clearly work to be done.

And I am pleased that today's second panel, which is looking specifically at London's transition, and how to address this whole issue head on.

There is already progress to report.

For example, and you will know this, London is now ranked first on the Global Green Finance Index, an initiative that evaluates the green finance offerings of 80 major financial centres around the world.

And the Government is providing funding to support the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission, helping to mobilise finance and drive investment into

low and net zero carbon emissions projects across London, and across the UK's largest cities.

But I urge all those with us today to go further.

I urge local leaders to set out the clear steps they will be taking to reach net zero across different areas.

From housing and transport.

To planting trees and enhancing nature.

Tackling air pollution, and building green infrastructure.

Frankly, the sort of infrastructure that the Prime Minister championed, during his mayoralty, to make London one of the most cycle-friendly cities in the world.

And, to all those business leaders in the audience, I urge you to recognise that net zero is one of the clearest economic trends there has ever been.

As I said earlier, 90 percent of the global economy is now covered by net zero targets.

We also know, at COP26, we have financial institutions with over \$130 trillion of assets on their balance sheets, many of them actually based in London, have committed to net zero by 2050 through the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

The UN-backed Race to Zero campaign, which commits its members to reach net zero by 2050 at the latest, now has 7,500 international businesses, that's an almost 50 percent increase in the number of businesses since COP26.

And, of course, over 60 percent of UK FTSE100 companies are committed to net zero as part of that effort.

The opportunities this transition presents, for jobs, for investment, and for economic growth, are actually clear.

And frankly the idea that there is a trade-off between climate action and corporate success is increasingly seen as anachronistic.

So, for those of you who have already committed to net zero as part of this effort, I want to thank you, I want to salute you for that, but now is the time to go further and set out clear plans, clear transition plans, for how you will get there.

For those of you who have not yet committed to net zero, please, just go for it.

You won't be disappointed.

It's going to be good for your bottom line.

Finally, I know there are youth and civil society leaders in the audience today as well.

Your role is absolutely crucial.

I have been clear about that throughout the UK's COP26 Presidency.

In fact, we established the COP26 Civil Society and Youth Advisory Council to help shape the Glasgow summit.

And when I've gone around the world, I've always made an effort to meet youth and civil society groups around the world, and hear their views.

We need your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your leadership.

We need people who are on-the-ground in their communities, helping to deliver effective local solutions.

And, frankly, we need you to keep up the pressure on governments and businesses to deliver on the commitments they have made.

Between all of us: central and local government, business, youth, civil society,

London can continue to be a powerful force for change.

Creating the conditions for ambitious climate action, which is what we need.

So, thank you for your leadership, for using your influence, and for showing how strongly the appetite for climate action exists.

But your work does not end with the UK's COP26 Presidency.

Because whilst the work we did in Glasgow did allow us to say with some credibility that we had kept 1.5 degrees alive, the reality is that the pulse of 1.5 remains weak.

The only way, my friends, that we will strengthen it is to redouble our efforts and to make sure to implement the commitments we have made.

Thank you so much for having me today.

And best of luck for the rest of the week.