

Submitted 26 Jan 2021

Reporting 4.2.2 (a) 2020

Welsh Water Organic Energy Cardiff has experienced a relatively successful fourth year of operations with the facility operating consistently throughout the year. Operational challenges were experienced in relations to the plant being affected with a temporary stopping of food waste collections due to the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, when considering these challenges, the overall efficiency of the plant has improved.

Plans for the installation of a liquid waste tank to compliment the process and move away form a reliance on potable water is in process with the Environmental Permit variation currently being prepared for submission.

Energy performance has been maintained and an improved working relationship with the CHP maintenance contractors and WW Energy Team, combined with a change in site operational practices has resulted in a significant increase in consistent energy production, a reduction in grid import for the site and subsequently a decrease flaring.

A standby boiler has been installed on site to supplement the CHP during major services / failure, this has not been commissioned yet and will form part of the permit variation submission.

Although overall the facility accepted less waste in 2020 due to the effect of the pandemic primarily during the summer months. Since normal waste deliveries have returned the plant has operated consistently with no incidents of contingency throughout the year, a first for the facility.

In terms of liquid digestate the facility production is in line with process parameters, however efforts are being made to improve on reducing this generation and the potential for digestate recirculation is being considered as an option to reduce disposal requirements. The site has developed a good working relationship with the liquid digestate contractors 4R, and this has resulted in sufficient offsite storage capacity being planned and developed for the winter non spreading months.

Reject material volumes are in line with expected and permitted amounts, but the site management team are looking to reduce these volumes and improve efficiencies.