

UNIVERSITY POWERS UP A NEW-STYLE COURSE

SITA UK HAS JOINED FORCES WITH A UNIVERSITY TO DEVELOP A COURSE ON PRODUCING ENERGY-FROM-WASTE

Teesside University has teamed up with SITA UK to help the company's workforce learn the best ways of producing energy from waste.

The university has developed a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in energy from waste to meet the growing demand for more sustainable means of energy production.

Although energy-from-waste facilities have been used for several decades on the continent, they are still relatively new in this country. However, with the increased demand for more renewable forms of energy production, they are growing in number, leading SITA UK to develop the HNC with Teesside University.

The HNC will be studied by employees who staff the company's energy-from-waste facilities around the country, including the one at nearby Billingham, where more than 100 people are employed.

Fiona Smith, Business Development Manager for Teesside University's School of Science and Engineering, said: "SITA UK is one of the world's leading recycling and resource management companies and we are delighted that it has chosen Teesside University to help train its staff.

"SITA UK'S ENERGY-FROM-WASTE FACILITIES REPRESENT A FANTASTIC EXAMPLE OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF PRODUCING ENERGY, WHICH NOT ONLY REDUCES OUR RELIANCE ON BURNING FOSSIL FUELS BUT ALSO REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF WASTE WHICH IS SENT TO LANDFILL."

Fiona Smith
Business Development Manager for Teesside
University's School of Science and Engineering

The HNC will be studied over two years with the majority of the course being delivered by Flexible Open Learning, which will enable participants to study irrespective of their location. The course combines theory and practical work with the focus being on industrial applications.

The first cohort of the HNC energy-from-waste programme will begin studying this year.

"WE TURNED TO TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY AS WE WANTED TO DEVELOP A FULLY ASSESSED COURSE FOR OUR EMPLOYEES.

WE WANTED SOMETHING THAT WAS UNIQUE TO OUR BUSINESS AND HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO COPE WITH THE CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRY. AS WELL AS TRAINING PEOPLE WHO CURRENTLY STAFF OUR EXISTING ENERGY-FROM-WASTE FACILITIES, IT WILL ALSO ENABLE EMPLOYEES IN OTHER AREAS OF OUR BUSINESS TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP CAREERS IN ENERGY."

Robin Walsh
Technical Training Manager, SITA UK



GREEN CAREERS MARKET GROWS

Optimism has returned to the environmental careers market, according to a report from ENDS, a leading European environmental news and information service.

All environmental recruitment firms ENDS spoke to said the green careers market had improved noticeably over the past year, with both traditional and emerging areas seeing growth.

The most significant recent change, ENDS reports, is the boom in energy from waste, particularly incineration and anaerobic digestion.

Kevan Sproul, SITA UK Director of Human Resources, told ENDS an energy-from-waste facility generated work for three to five times as many people as an equivalent-sized landfill site.

"But they are different sorts of jobs – often more technical ones," he said. "We're looking for people experienced in production and process techniques."

There were two approaches to finding the right people, he said. One was to recruit from other industries, the other to train up internal staff.

He added: "I am proud of our partnership with Teesside University and the development of this unique programme."