

Justification for Priority Track: Environmental Permit for the Digester at Haworth Scouring Company

1. Introduction

This document outlines the justification for prioritising the environmental permit application for the proposed digester at Haworth Scouring Company. The project plays a critical role in reducing environmental impacts, improving resource efficiency, and delivering long-term cost savings to support sustainable operations.

2. Environmental Impact Reduction

- **Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** By diverting organic material from land spreading and treating it on-site, the digester reduces the site's current reliance on gas by up to 100m³/hour.
- **Reduced Waste Output:** The digester enables the conversion of organic waste into biogas and digestate, significantly reducing the volume of waste sent to land spreading and associated transport by 50%, lowering overall environmental footprint.
- **Improved Effluent Quality:** The digestion process enhances the quality of wastewater effluent reducing COD by up to 70%, helping the company maintain compliance with environmental regulations.
- **Chemical Use Reduction:** Optimising the digestion process reduces the reliance on chemical dosing by 60%, significantly lowering chemical transport requirements and reducing vehicle emissions within the Bradford Clean Air Zone.

3. Cost Savings and Operational Efficiency

- **Energy Cost Reduction:** Biogas generated by the digester can be used on-site to offset energy consumption, reducing dependency on external energy sources and lowering operational costs.
- **Lower Waste Disposal Expenses:** Treating waste on-site allows the company to minimize dependence on external waste management providers and related transportation costs by 50%. The notable decrease in effluent COD will substantially cut wastewater disposal fees, counteracting the 30% rise recorded in 2025 and the additional increase of over 8% in 2026.
- **Long-Term Financial Stability:** Investment in waste-to-energy technology supports resilience against future increases in energy costs, waste disposal charges and environmental levies.
- **Fuel cost reduction:** HSC transitioned from diesel-powered lift trucks to electric models, primarily due to the fuel savings generated by using electric power instead of diesel.

4. Strategic and Regulatory Alignment

Prioritising the environmental permit aligns with regional and national sustainability objectives, including resource efficiency, carbon reduction, and circular-economy principles. Early approval will ensure that Haworth Scouring Company remains compliant with evolving environmental legislation and avoids operational disruption.

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5. Local Employment and Socioeconomic Benefits

The digester project will play an important role in supporting the local community by creating new employment opportunities in an area experiencing relatively high levels of unemployment. In addition to direct employment, the project will stimulate indirect economic activity through continued demand for local suppliers, contractors, and service providers. By generating stable, long-term work opportunities, the project contributes to strengthening the regional economy and improving livelihoods within the surrounding communities.

6. Conclusion

The digester project delivers substantial environmental and economic benefits that justify fast-tracking the environmental permit. Approving this permit as a priority will support Haworth Scouring Company in advancing its sustainability commitments, reducing operational costs, and ensuring long-term environmental compliance.

Yours sincerely,



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