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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Environmental Technologies Revealed In Middle Quinton Vision

Energy from waste, gasification of non-recyclable waste and vacuum chutes to dispose of local refuse are all features of the proposed new ECO town at Middle Quinton.

The new environmental features, which aim to ensure a zero carbon output for the development of 6,000 new properties on a brownfield former MoD site, will be rolled out as part of a drive to bring new technologies to the Stratford area.

Techniques to install individual vacuum pumps to every property, along with rainwater Recycling Harvest Tanks will enhance local recycling. Gasification of non-recyclable materials will contribute towards the power consumption of the ECO town, reducing the need the need to tap into the National Grid and bringing average consumer prices down from over £1,000 per year to just over £100.

**St Modwen regional director, John Dodds** commented on the proposal:

*“With the current price rises and general problems regarding oil and gas supply, it is becoming even more important to local people that the cost of living should be as low as possible. We aim to generate sufficient energy so to minimise the reliance on the National Grid, therefore reducing energy costs to the consumer.*

*“These are not gimmicks but genuine sustainable solutions to the issue of recycling, waste disposal and land fill. Against the backdrop of rising energy prices, these features will help to reduce average fuel bills by as much as 90% of what local people currently have to pay.”*

The news comes as Centrica, the company who own British Gas, warned that consumers face a steep 70% increase in energy bills over the coming year.



**Grant Stephenson of Barton Wilmore**, the company involved with the environmental impact of the development, revealed more details of the waste vacuum proposal:

*"We plan to install waste receptacles into each property in Middle Quinton. The chutes can dispose of a huge amount of waste. A three-man waste truck will get round 1,000 houses per day. Our system will be manned by just one operative, and have the same capacity of 1,000 properties collected in just one hour.*

*"The environmental benefits of this system are clear. As well as the obvious lack of any overspill you naturally get when wagons are collecting waste, the very fact that there will be no need for such trucks will remove a huge burden to the local roads and emit far less."*

Rainwater harvesting and other recycling methods will feature as the development of technologies for Middle Quinton continues.

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**Notes to editors**

Centrica commissioned an independent study into rising oil and gas prices. The Guardian reported the results of this study on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008:

*Consumer organisations attacked energy companies today for not doing enough to protect poorer people from the worst effects of spiralling gas prices .*

*The comments came after a report warned that gas prices could soar by up to 70% over the next few years. Annual gas bills could rise from around £600 a household to more than £1,000, according to the independent report commissioned by Centrica, which owns British Gas. The report, compiled by Norwegian consultants Eclipse Energy, said gas prices in the UK would be more strongly influenced by the soaring cost of oil, which has jumped above \$140 a barrel this year - twice as high as a year ago. This is because declining output from the North Sea makes Britain more reliant on imports.*

*"The energy companies could do more to shield vulnerable people from the worst effects of rising energy prices," said Cassie Higgs, energy expert at the National Consumer Council. "An effective response would be for the companies to offer low-cost 'social' tariffs to vulnerable households, such as low-income families and elderly people. Some energy companies are doing well in this area, but others are offering schemes that are inadequate - often rationed and applied inconsistently."*



*Jake Ulrich, managing director of Centrica Energy, admitted that gas price rises were likely to lead to a "potentially significant" rise in the number of people in fuel poverty. He predicted that people would have to change their habits to deal with higher prices. "I do think we will see people change their behaviour," he said. "I think people will use less energy and I hate to go back to the Jimmy Carter days in the US but maybe it's two jumpers instead of one."*

*Consumer watchdog Energywatch called on the government to act to reduce the pressure on wholesale gas prices and force the industry to deliver affordable energy for the less well-off. "The government is right to say that the link to oil is a cause of the problems but wrong to say there is nothing that can be done," said chief executive Allan Asher. "The local impact is so catastrophic it should be leading the international drive to end the hugely damaging and entirely unjustifiable link between the prices of gas and oil."*

*Gordon Lishman, director general of Age Concern, said higher energy bills were hitting pensioners particularly hard. "Price rises on this scale would mean well over 3 million pensioner households - more than one-in-three - would be in fuel poverty," he said. "It is totally unacceptable that because of price hikes many older people may feel forced to cut back on their heating, which could put their health at risk."*

*Britain's biggest power companies already warned that householders could see their gas and electricity bills increase by as much 40% this winter because of a "seismic shift" in wholesale costs. The average dual-fuel customer is paying nearly 15% more - £1,048 - for gas and electricity after the latest round of price increases earlier this year, according to Energywatch.*

The energy from waste method is produced from the gasification of non-recyclable materials.

The process for this is as follows:

- Three main types of gasification:
  - Plasma ARC
  - Fluidised Bed
  - Entrained Flow
- Plasma ARC is best system for high plastic content waste
- Turns any carbon-based waste into 'syngas' (H<sub>2</sub>+ CO)
- Air emissions are minimal and substantially below those of incineration plants
- Land emissions comprise a small amount of vitrified, non-leachable ash
- Permitting is easier and the footprint significantly smaller than incineration plants

