

News story: Innovative fibreboard recycling firm attracts £250,000 investment

A North Wales company has secured a £250,000 investment from a global waste management services group to commercialise its pioneering process for recycling medium-density fibreboard (MDF).

The backing from [SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK](#) will allow [MDF Recovery](#) to take its technology to market after 6 years of research and development.

Their collaboration follows an Innovate UK project where they worked together on a 'closed loop' recycling option for waste MDF. The 2 companies established a pilot plant to refine the process and host demonstrations for potential industrial end-users.

[Find out how Innovate UK supports the manufacturing and materials sector in the UK.](#)

By allowing manufacturers to take the waste MDF back from customers and recover the wood fibre, the technology offers an innovative alternative to landfill or incineration for used MDF products and off-cuts.

Attractive option for the retail sector

MDF Recovery's solution generates a new secondary material source for the wood/natural fibre industry. Co-founder Craig Bartlett estimates it could recycle between 30,000 to 60,000 tonnes of MDF waste in the UK each year, and almost 3 million tonnes globally.

[Learn more about how Innovate UK has helped businesses to be successful.](#)

Craig said:

The SUEZ investment provides a significant boost to MDF Recovery in our quest to commercialise the technology to make single-use MDF a thing of the past. The recovered fibre produced by the process is of the same high quality as fibre obtained from virgin wood and can be used as a direct substitute in the manufacturing process.

The technology can be retro-fitted or designed into new plants and

offers a robust solution for reworking waste and increasing the yield at the MDF manufacturing facility.

The business is in discussions with potential customers and partners. The technology could be particularly attractive to the retail sector, which uses large amounts of MDF in shop fittings.

[Find out how to apply for funding.](#)

Consultation outcome: Local authority environmental regulation fees and charges 2017

Updated: Summary of responses added.

We want to know what you think about proposed amendments to the environmental permitting fees and charges schemes, including a general increase of 4.5%. Do you think the increase is justified to cover regulatory costs?

We particularly want to hear from Local Authority Environmental Health regulators, from operators of regulated facilities and their trade associations.

Consultation outcome: Bathing waters: designation of Manor Steps beach, Bournemouth

Updated: Updated with the summary of responses and the decision to designate this beach as a bathing water.

We want to know what you think about a proposal to designate Manor Steps beach, Bournemouth, as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC). This proposal follows an application we have received from Bournemouth Borough Council.

We have published evidence of facilities and usage at the site. You can also read the [criteria for designation and de-designation of bathing waters](#).

This consultation will be of interest to the recreation sector, leisure and tourism industries, beach users, environmental campaigners and families.

Consultation outcome: Bathing waters: designating 8 beaches in Cornwall

Updated: Summary of responses added and decision made to designate the 8 beaches (Booby's Bay, Fistral South, Godrevy Towans, Gwynver, Mexico Towans, Northcott Mouth, Tregonhawke, Upton Towans) as bathing waters.

We want to know what you think about a proposal to designate eight beaches in Cornwall as bathing waters under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC). This follows an application we have received from Cornwall Council. The beaches being considered are:

- Booby's Bay, near St Merryn
- Godrevy, The Towans, Hayle
- Gwynver, Whitesand Bay
- Northcott Mouth, near Bude
- South Fistral, Newquay
- Mexico Towan, Hayle
- Tregonhawke, Whitsand Bay
- Upton Towan, Hayle

We have published evidence of facilities and usage at each site. You can also read the [criteria for designation and de-designation of bathing waters](#).

This consultation will be of interest to the recreation sector, leisure and tourism industries, beach users, environmental campaigners and families.

Consultation outcome: Water industry: strategic policy statement to Ofwat 2017

Updated: Summary of responses added.

We want to know your views on the new strategic policy statement (SPS) to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat).

This document sets out the government's strategic priorities for Ofwat's regulation of the water sector in England.

It will replace the [previous SPS](#) that was issued to Ofwat in 2013.