Welcome to our drop in session

Welcome to SUEZ recycling and recovery UK's drop-in session about our plans for a new anaerobic digestion facility at our site on Holloway Lane, near Sipson in West London.

We're here today to share details about the plans, answer any questions you have, and listen to your views.

If granted planning permission, we expect the facility would open in 2027/28.

It would have the capacity to generate energy for the equivalent of 8,200 homes by processing up to 100,000 tonnes of food waste a year.

Additional benefits include:

- Reducing CO_2 emissions – more than 7,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year would be captured, liquified and could be used in the manufacturing industry.
- Providing a local recycling facility for existing food waste in the area.
- Contributing to the UK's wider Net Zero targets.
- Supporting the UK's energy security and decarbonisation plans.

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About SUEZ

SUEZ recycling and recovery UK at a glance:

- Provider of innovative and environmentally responsible solutions for waste from households and businesses
- Operator of 48 energy generating facilities in the UK
- Established in 1988
- Part of the global SUEZ group
- Over 6,200 employees
- Handling over 11 million tonnes of waste a year
- Guided by a vision to live in a society where there is no more waste

We have a long-standing operation serving communities in and around West London from our sites in Hayes, Ruislip and Brentford.

London's Food Waste Challenge

Scale of the challenge

London's estimated annual food waste is nearly 2 million tonnes per year

(London Assembly, 'A Wasted Opportunity,' February 2020)

Current processing capacity within London is less than 500,000 tonnes per year and needs to increase to 1 million by 2026

(London Assembly Environment Committee, February 2024)

This is also an opportunity to generate renewable energy – London's food waste could power 75,000 homes

(London Assembly, 'A Wasted Opportunity,' February 2020)

Current arrangements for food waste in West London

- West London already collects around 115,000 tonnes of food waste each year.
- Only 20,000 tonnes of food is currently collected separately. It is sent to an anaerobic digestion plant in South London.
- The remaining 95,000 tonnes remains within the residual waste which is delivered to an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility near Bristol by rail where it is burnt to produce electricity.

What changes in the future?

- Businesses will be required to dispose of food waste separately from April 2025 and households will be required to do so from April 2026.
- This puts more pressure on local authority services.
- We are proposing a new efficient anaerobic digestion facility that could deal with west London's food waste in the future.

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Our proposal for Holloway Lane

Our site is located on Holloway Lane near Sipson, in West London.

Formerly a quarry, it lies 1.2km to the north of Heathrow Airport, and just south of the M4 motorway.

There is a national need to reduce food waste and put any food that is disposed of to good use. Our proposed facility is designed to do just that, by turning some of London's food waste into biomethane gas and digestate, a compost-like soil improver – a win-win for our communities and the environment.

We are applying to process up to 100,000 tonnes of food waste per year, ensuring capacity for long-term growth in the demand for managing food that has been thrown away.

The site is currently occupied by Powerday, operating a waste transfer facility, and Foley Haulage, operating an aggregate waste processing facility.

With our new proposal, Powerday would stay on the site and the new AD facility would replace the aggregate waste processing facility.

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Holloway Lane – a well-located solution

We have already undertaken a detailed Alternative Site Assessment study before bringing these plans forward for public consultation.

This study has considered this site amongst over 850 potential waste management sites across West London and looked at their suitability for developing an anaerobic digestion facility.

It concluded that Holloway Lane is the only potential site within the defined area of search which is considered capable of accommodating the proposed facility.

The site has a number of advantages:

- It is already in use as a waste management site with minimal impact on local communities. The restored Holloway Lane landfill provides a natural buffer between the operation, and being in a quarry provides some screening.
- The site has good transport links to West London and the motorway network and HGVs would not pass through villages, unless they are collecting food waste from them.
- Close proximity to sources of food waste – we intend to generate gas from food that is thrown away from homes and businesses such as food outlets, breweries and hotels in the local area.
- There are no facilities of this type in West London and so this will fill a significant gap in capacity for processing food waste and other organic materials.
- Close proximity to the proposed gas grid entry point – the gas produced at the facility would be connected to the grid on Holloway Lane.
- Close proximity to aggregate processing sites, which could use the carbon dioxide captured from the facility.
- The digestate produced in the process can be used to improve soil quality on the three restored landfills that we manage locally – Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth and Heathrow.

The site is located in the Green Belt, but this is balanced by the fact that it is a former quarry that already hosts waste management facilities and has done so for many years. We will undertake a Green Belt balancing exercise that will consider any benefits and impacts on the Green Belt and the wider environment as part of our planning application submission.

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Draft site layout

The key elements of our proposal are:

- An enclosed processing building (approximately 16m high) with a sophisticated odour control system and fast-acting doors, which retain odour inside the reception hall via negative pressure.
- Associated treatment tanks, storage facilities and biogas upgrading, including carbon capture infrastructure reaching a maximum of 18m high.
- A biogas upgrade system with CO_2 capture.
- A CHP (generator) stack (approximately 17m high).
- Weighbridges – lorries will be stopped, checked, and weighed on both arrival and departure.
- A two-storey office building.

Anaerobic digestion is an ongoing process, so the site would be operating seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

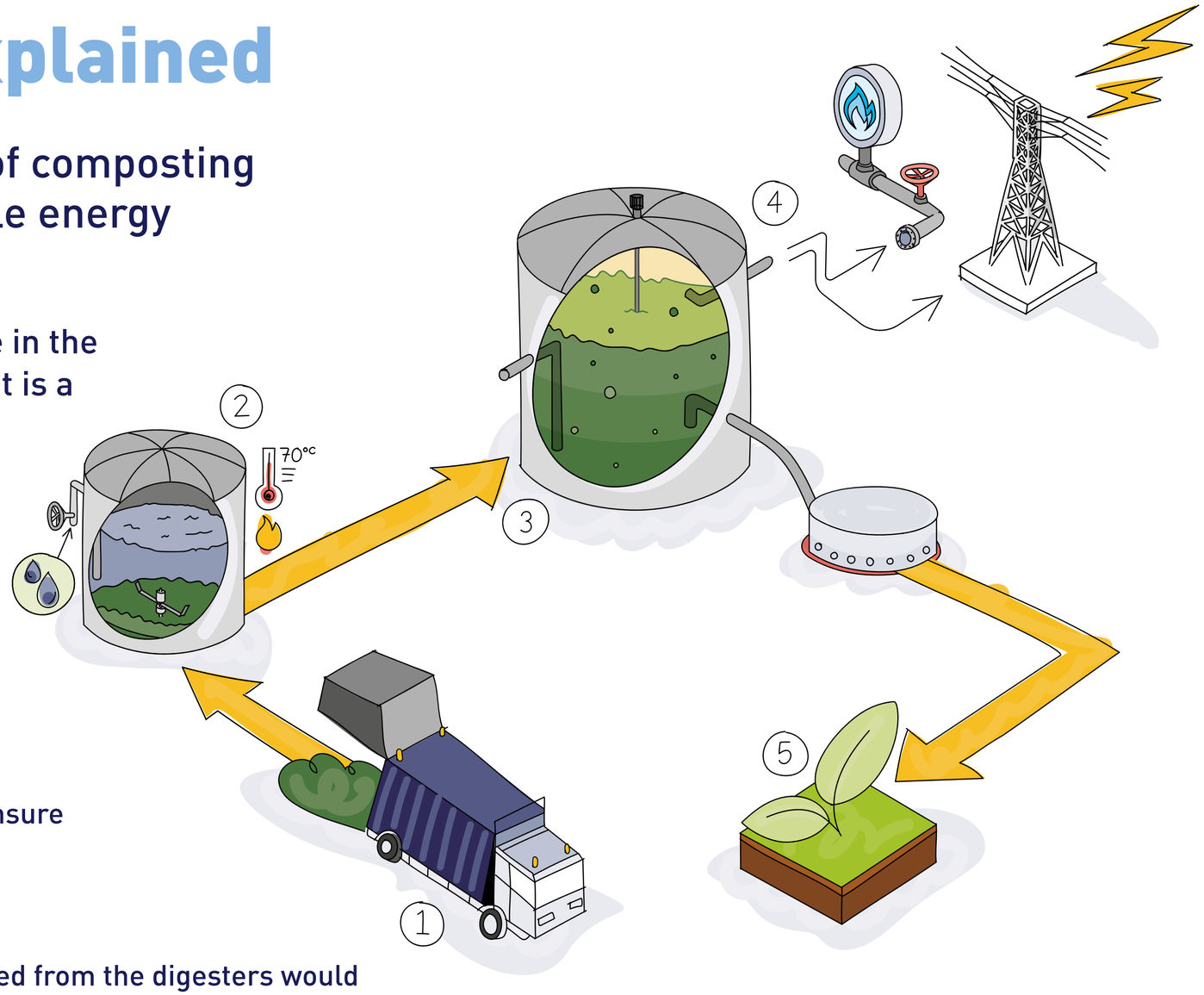
Most food waste deliveries would take place between 7am and 7pm, with a small fleet of collection vehicles departing before 7am.

We are committed to preserving and enhancing the local environment. We shall retain as many trees as possible around the site boundary and will undertake a landscaping and planting programme to enhance biodiversity on the site.

Anaerobic digestion explained

Anaerobic digestion is an alternative way of composting food waste, while also producing renewable energy and avoiding carbon emissions.

The process is called anaerobic because it takes place in the absence of oxygen in a sealed tank. Like composting, it is a natural process dependent on the micro-organisms that digest organic waste.



① Collection

Vehicles delivering food waste, collected from homes and businesses, would reverse into the building via the fast-acting doors operated by staff. Once the doors are closed, the waste will be deposited into a pit in the reception area.

The building would be maintained under negative air pressure through the extraction of air by forced ventilation. This would ensure that all odours are drawn through the odour control system.

② Pre-treatment

First the food waste would be pre-treated to remove contaminants such as packaging and it would also be diluted with water.

Heating this waste mixture to 70°C for one hour would kill all pathogens in the food.

③ Digestion

Once pasteurised, the waste would be fed into the anaerobic digester. As with composting, bacteria break down the waste, converting it into biogas and a residue, which is called digestate.

④ Energy

Biogas piped from the digesters would be used to generate electricity and heat to power and heat the facility itself.

Excess biogas can be exported to the gas grid after being upgraded onsite, or used to generate electricity for the national grid.

⑤ Other by-products

The AD process produces a digestate ‘cake’ or slurry. This can be spread to agricultural land as biofertilizer to improve the soil.

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Protecting the local environment

The plant would be designed and operated to the highest safety and environmental standards. If approved, it would have to operate within the strict limits that would be set by Hillingdon Council, through its planning permission conditions, and the Environment Agency, through its Environmental Permit.

We are conducting extensive environmental impact assessments as part of the development of our planning application.

These show that the development would have no significant negative impacts on the environment or for local biodiversity.

The management of food waste does give rise to odours within the reception hall itself, but these would be carefully controlled and suppressed using a series of established measures.

They would include:

- All operations would take place in the enclosed processing building.
- The building would be fitted with an air extraction system and odour suppression system.
- The entrances to the building would be fitted with fast-acting doors.
- No waste would be ‘tipped’ until these doors were fully closed.
- The system would be designed to treat the ‘oldest’ waste first, meaning material would not be retained in the reception area for any longer than required.
- Waste delivery vehicles would be regularly cleaned, inspected, and maintained.
- After the initial tipping and pre-treatment, food waste would be retained within fully enclosed pipes and tanks, ensuring odours cannot escape.

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Being a good neighbour

We want to play our part in managing the local environment as a responsible company, and a good neighbour and employer.

We are open to ideas from the local community, Hillingdon Council, and political representatives as to how we can best enhance the area if the development is approved.

Working with the community is important to us. We are committed to ensuring that the local area is protected as far as possible and will not be adversely impacted by the development.

We understand the importance of minimising Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic through the villages of Sipson and Harmondsworth and the importance of protecting and enhancing the surrounding area.

We have developed:

- An HGV routing strategy, which will require HGVs to turn right out of the site and avoid Harmondsworth and Sipson Villages.
- Proposals to position the AD facility set back from the main roads, screening them from most vantage points.
- Emerging plans to enhance biodiversity on the site.
- Designs to ensure the the main process building is fully enclosed.

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Access routes and traffic volumes

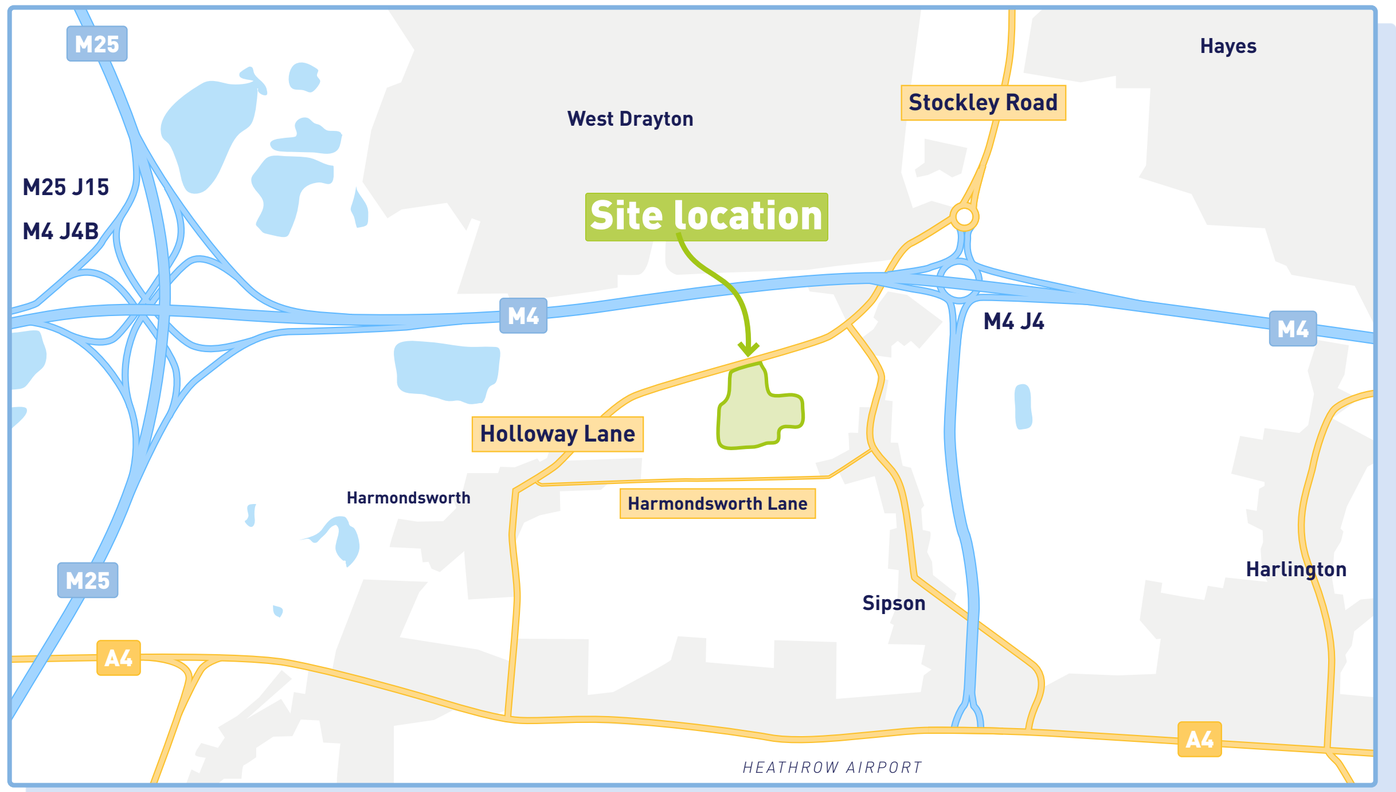
Our HGV routing strategy will require HGVs from the site to avoid the villages of Sipson and Harmondsworth, unless they are specifically collecting food waste from these villages.

HGVs would access the site via Holloway Lane and the M4, turning left into the site and turning right when they leave.

If the facility operates at maximum capacity (100,000 tonnes of waste a year), we expect there to be a maximum of 250 two-way HGV trips to and from the site per day, comprising 125 in and 125 out.

These maximum HGV movement numbers are very likely to be an overestimate since we have modelled them on current food collection practices which tend to see food waste collected in 'split back' vehicles which are also collecting other recyclable waste streams. This results in low food volumes per vehicle. In the future, food waste is likely to be collected in dedicated vehicles with a larger volume per vehicle.

However, even when using these highest vehicle numbers, our emerging traffic assessment concludes there would be no significant impacts on the local road network as a result of traffic from the development. A detailed transport statement will be submitted with our planning application.



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Jobs and contracting opportunities

If approved, the new development would support around 40-50 construction jobs and around 15 permanent jobs associated with the operation of the anaerobic digestion facility.

There would also be sub-contracting opportunities associated with the construction work, in particular.

Whilst some of the work required would be very specialist in nature, we would work with the Council and any appropriate local business, training and employability groups to ensure any relevant opportunities were promoted locally to residents and suppliers. To apply for a role, visit our website www.suez.co.uk.

Young talent

We recognise the benefit of harnessing and developing new talent, and as a global player in water and waste, SUEZ offers numerous apprenticeships and work experience opportunities for school leavers and students.

Every year, we recruit graduates and offer vocational apprenticeship courses across our UK business in various roles, disciplines, and departments, such as energy, production and commercial operations.

Graduates can join us either through our graduate scheme, our apprenticeship programme or by applying directly for roles designated for graduate applicants and apprentices on our website.

Share your feedback

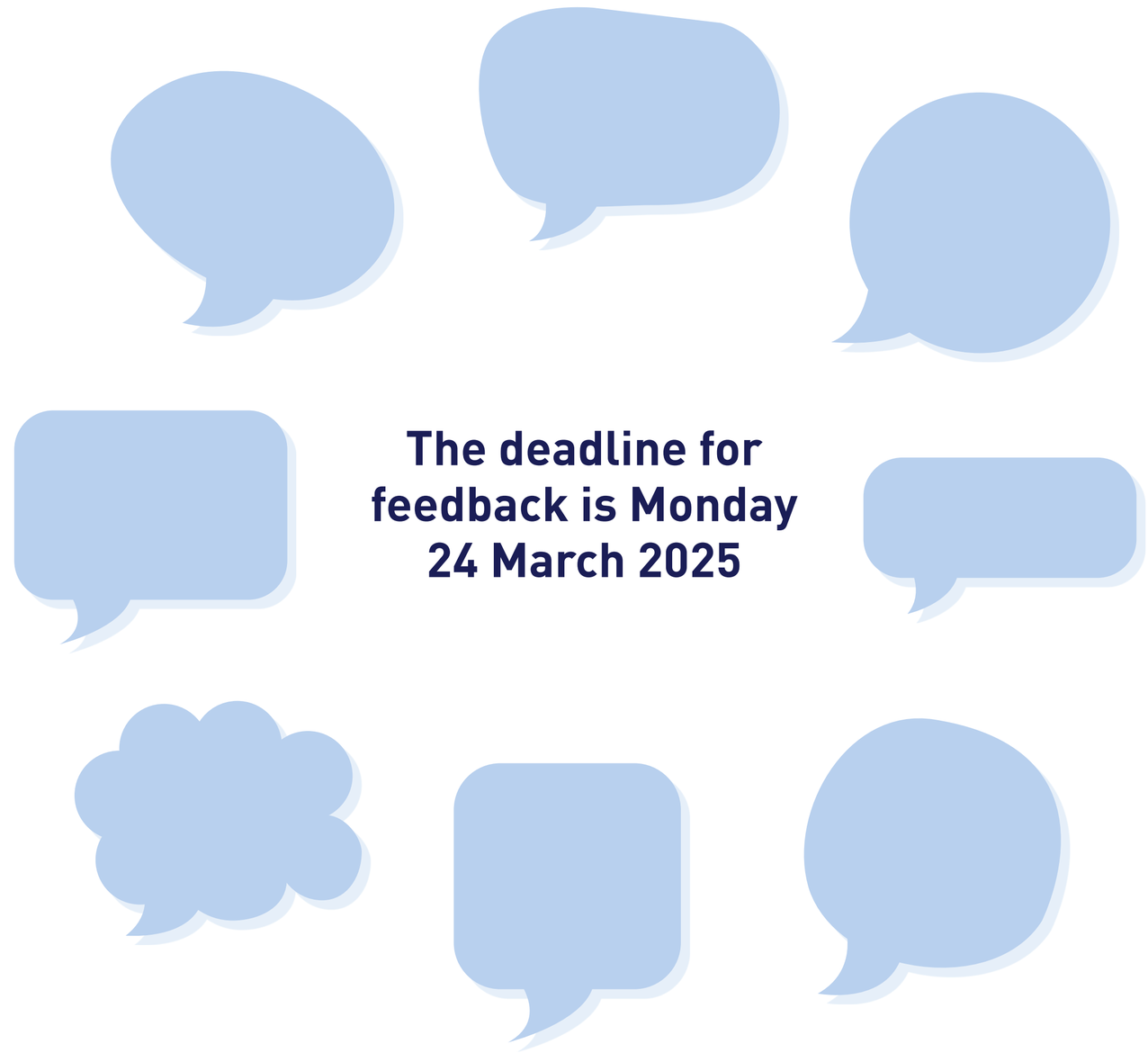
Thank you for coming along to our drop-in session today. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the team here today who will be happy to help.

We welcome your feedback and invite you to fill out a comments form and place it in the box provided.

You can also provide feedback and contact us by:

- Emailing
  hollowaylane.uk@suez.com
- Visiting the Holloway Lane web page
  www.suez.co.uk/hollowaylane
- Calling
  07855 180 023
- Writing to
  FREEPOST Planning feedback, PO Box 6112, SUEZ House, 13-35 Grenfell Road, Maidenhead

The consultation period will close on Monday 24 March 2025 so all feedback must be provided by that date.



The deadline for feedback is Monday 24 March 2025

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What happens next?

Thank you for visiting our drop-in session today.

These exhibitions are just one of the ways we are engaging with and listening to local communities, businesses, and other interested parties.

We have distributed information leaflets about the plans to hundreds of homes, written to stakeholders and consultees, and arranged meetings to talk through the proposals in more detail.

SUEZ is listening to the comments received and the views expressed and will reflect these as far as possible in the details of our proposal and planning application.

We will also summarise the feedback in a Statement of Community Involvement, which we will submit to Hillingdon Council alongside our planning application.

We anticipate submitting a planning application in 2025. If the plans are approved, construction will likely take place during 2026/27, with the facility becoming operational in 2027/28.

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