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## Policy Connect/Sustainable Resource Forum: Energy from Waste Inquiry

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### Call for evidence

Policy Connect is undertaking a project exploring the future management of the UK's residual waste, alongside increased recycling targets, and reduced landfill/waste exports. This will consider the role that EfW can contribute, and how this might fit into the wider ambitions for a circular economy. There will also be a focus on the potential for widespread utilisation of EfW heat, and the current barriers and incentives that might help achieve this. It will finally consider the local value and benefits that integrated EfW with district heat networks can provide, including providing low-carbon heat and energy, tackling fuel poverty, creating long-term jobs and investment, and contributing to sustainable future communities.

This document outlines the areas of scope for this inquiry, and the questions we are gathering evidence on. Policy Connect are accepting written evidence to some or all of the below questions. Submissions will be accepted until the **14th of February 2019**.

### The future of residual waste

*What does the future of waste management in the UK look like across the regions, and has the residual element been appropriately considered alongside increased recycling? What role could EfW play in contributing to the Government's ambitions for a circular economy?*

1. How appropriate is current Government policy on EfW and residual waste management?
2. What is the current state of play with residual waste exports to Europe, and how is this likely to change in the future?
3. What are the Government's ambitions for waste management and targets for the future?
4. What are the criteria for and implications of the 'recovery/disposal status' set out in the Waste Framework Directive?
5. What specific forms of EfW technology are currently in use, and what are some of the most promising technologies in development?
6. How can EfW be compatible with a circular economy, and avoid negative knock-on effects for the environment, both at a local and global scale?
7. What opportunities/tools are available to maximise efficiency in the EfW process?
8. What is the relationship between recycling and EfW/landfill rates, in the UK and abroad?
9. How should residual waste be managed across the regions/countries within the UK, both in the short and longer term?
10. What are the current barriers that might prevent the UK from improving sustainability in the residual waste sector?

## EfW heat

*What are the opportunities for EfW to provide low carbon heating/cooling for industry and domestic properties across the UK? How might this translate into planning policy, particularly in relation to new housing developments and public facilities?*

1. What existing district heating and cooling technology is currently in usage?
2. To what extent is CHP being utilised in the UK?
3. Does there appear to be any significant relationship between countries with high CHP utilisation and climate?
4. What locations/areas do EfW plants and connected heat networks tend to be built in, in terms of geography, demographics, socio-economic factors etc.?
5. What is the relationship between utilising EfW heat, and improved R<sub>1</sub> efficiency ratings?
6. How do district heat networks improve energy efficiency in domestic properties and public facilities?
7. What other factors do district heat networks often rely upon, such as planning and investment opportunities?
8. What are the most promising ways to utilise heat from EfW, to provide a low-carbon source of heating/cooling?
9. Why has CHP been more successfully adopted across the Continent, with less opposition from the public than seen in the UK?
10. What are the main barriers, including the planning system, that are preventing us from replicating this integrated community model seen across many European countries?

## EfW in communities

*How can EfW help to address social issues in communities such as fuel poverty, and enable regional leadership in low carbon heat?*

1. Does EfW energy mainly supply surrounding communities, or get fed into the grid?
2. What are the main grounds of public opposition to EfW, and are these accurate/factual?
3. What steps have governments taken to educate and address inaccurate public concerns around EfW that are untrue?
4. Why are existing EfW plants often located in areas with higher levels of poverty?
5. Is there any evidence abroad of heat networks reducing fuel poverty and improving cohesion in communities?
6. What involvement do local authorities and housing associations typically have in existing EfW energy/heat networks?
7. What currently are the main ownership models for both existing EfW plants/land, as well as nearby developments that are supplied by the plants?
8. How are communities engaged and involved where district heat networks are more successfully used abroad?
9. What are some of the most promising social benefits that CHP can provide to local residents, to help develop cohesive and sustainable communities?
10. How could EfW facilities be better integrated into communities to raise awareness of their value, and reduce concerns often raised by local residents?
11. What might the most suitable model be for EfW communities to be based on, in terms of community engagement, supply and ownership?

Please send written evidence for this inquiry to:  
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