

Veolia increases solvent recycling to produce more sustainable products and reduce carbon emissions

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Veolia has expanded the solvent recovery capacity at its Garston, Liverpool, facility to 86,000 tonnes a year to meet the growing demand for more sustainable industrial products. Effective recycling of these used solvents, waste paint thinners and solvent based paint, will create new products as an alternative to virgin solvents, so that they can be used again in industries including pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, paint, agrochemicals and cement manufacture.

As part of Veolia's new strategic plan GreenUP, this solvent recovery process will also save an estimated 172,000 tonnes CO₂e in greenhouse gas emissions each year, compared to virgin resources, equivalent to taking 78,000 diesel cars off the road annually.

Waste materials are processed at the site to regenerate them into high quality recycled products that can be reused displacing virgin materials in the supply chain. The facility uses various distillation technologies to separate residues from the wastes, and then to further separate solvent mixtures into products suitable for industrial customers.

As well as generating products the plant also produces several types of fuel. A distilled product fuel is used instead of natural gas to power the site's steam boilers, reducing the energy required from gas by 10,000 MWh per year, equivalent to the gas usage of 1,000 homes per year. Other by-products from the process are sent to Veolia facilities to be manufactured into alternative fuels for use in the cement industry, helping to decarbonize this industry and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.

The increased processing capacity has been achieved by installing new distillation columns to separate liquids, and 17 tanks to store or transfer the solvents. Transport is handled through two new high throughput tanker loading bays which manage logistics for offloading waste for processing, and load the recycled solvents ready for customer delivery.

Commenting on the new development, Nicola Henshaw, Managing Director Hazardous at Veolia UK said: *"This latest expansion of our solvent treatment capabilities demonstrates our commitment to deliver high quality recycled products derived from advanced waste treatment. This highlights the effectiveness of our GreenUp strategy, and further strengthens our position as the world leader in hazardous waste treatment. By preserving resources, reducing reliance on virgin materials, and delivering sustainable products to support manufacturers, we can also create major carbon savings."*

Veolia is the world leader in hazardous waste treatment, from collection and disposal to recycling and reuse. Backed by the Groups GreenUp strategy, aimed at making Veolia the champion of decarbonization, de-pollution and regeneration of natural resources, the Group currently treats and recycles around 10 million tonnes of hazardous waste. This spans across more than 100,000 industrial, commercial or public authority clients, across a network of more than 300 facilities on five continents.

For more information visit www.veolia.co.uk