



MEDIA STATEMENT

UPDATE PLANNED FOR \$350 MILLION RENEWABLE ENERGY-FROM-WASTE PLANT

The Waimate community will have the opportunity to ask more questions and learn further information about the proposed \$350 million renewable Energy-from-Waste plant, known as Project Kea, when project specialists and directors return to the region.

South Island Resource Recovery Ltd (SIRRL) Board Director Paul Taylor says that the Project Kea team are looking forward to reporting on the proposal's progress to the community. Future updates will include more about the technology and other information for the community, while it also continues to work through the plant's resource consent process.

"We're reaching out to local iwi and urging people in the region to participate in the resource consenting process and have their say on the project," says Taylor. "That is why we will also be asking Environment Canterbury to publicly notify our resource consent application."

Almost 200 local people attended the Project Kea information sessions held over two days at the Waimate Event Centre in September.

"Since the Project Kea announcement last month, we've received many messages of support throughout the community and interest across the country as Aotearoa New Zealand's landfill crisis grows," says Paul Taylor.

"There is also wider understanding of where modern Energy-from-Waste technology safely fits into the 'waste hierarchy' once waste minimisation and recycling efforts are complete.

"Energy-from-Waste technology is new to Aotearoa but not new globally, so we do understand why we need to provide as much information as possible showing how the plant will be completely safe and non-intrusive, with the added benefit of supplying renewable energy security for the local community and the economy.

"Critically, Project Kea is a viable alternative to merely burying waste in the earth that landfills are doing now – creating climate change-causing methane gas and pushing the waste problem onto our tamariki and mokopuna.



“Businesses have also been in touch as, in addition to direct and indirect jobs created by the plant, there are a number of opportunities for companies to take advantage of the outputs from Energy from-Waste plants. SIRRL would particularly like to hear from local people interested in developing glasshouse technology for horticulture and food production. We’d also like to hear from those interested in aquaculture.

“Northern European experience is that such plants, particularly with the energy security they provide, are likely to improve economic development through attracting more companies and more employment opportunities to the community.

“Meanwhile, local people can be assured that no waste will be stored on site until appropriate consents are given and construction of the plant is well advanced. After this, if SIRRL needs to store any waste on site, it will mostly be wrapped tightly in bales, be far from view or odour range and placed in a specially designed bunker within the main building, at negative pressure, or in a bespoke and totally enclosed building.

The offshore joint venture partners from Spain and China will provide the proven technology and expertise and SIRRL are planning to commence rail transport negotiations to eventually replace at least half of the truck movements the site will require. There is no expectation of changes to local rates due to Project Kea.

We are regularly updating questions and answers on the Project Kea website as they are raised
<https://www.projectkea.co.nz/questionsandanswers>

*SIRRL is a joint venture between Spanish company Urbaser SAU, New Zealand’s Renew Energy Limited, and China Tianying Incorporated.