**Key Issues**
The GRREC site had a number of key environmental issues which had to be addressed and resolved through the EIA process and facility design, incorporating significant mitigation measures. Key environmental issues included ecology and air quality.

**Air Quality**
Detailed assessments of Air Quality and Human Health impact were undertaken in line with best practice methodologies. The risks to health were found to comply with the relevant benchmarks at all potentially sensitive locations. To account for uncertainties associated with the assessment of emissions to air, a worst case approach was adopted throughout the study. This robust assessment concluded that there would be no significant adverse impact on human health or air quality standards as a result of the proposed development. As a result of the extensive mitigation and control measures built into the proposals, therefore no further mitigation was necessary.

Furthermore no odour, bioaerosols or dust issues would be expected to arise outside of the site boundary.

**Purpose of the project**
Viridor Waste Management Limited (Viridor) sought full planning permission for the construction of a state of the art Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre which will place Glasgow at the forefront of sustainable resource management and renewable energy provision. Wardell Armstrong was commissioned to prepare EIA and provide input into the masterplan with particular emphasis on the environmental constraints at the existing Polmadie Road site.

**Description of the project**
The site is located on Polmadie Road, south-east of Glasgow city centre. The proposed facility will, from 2016, under a 25 year Contract, allow Viridor to extract recyclables to improve recycling rates and produce renewable energy from approximately 200,000 tonnes per annum of Glasgow’s unsorted municipal waste. The existing waste management facilities at the site would be redeveloped to provide an integrated development incorporating a Smart Materials Recycling Facility to sort the waste and remove recyclables; treatment of residual organic waste in an Anaerobic Digestion plant and gasification of the remaining non-recyclable Refuse-Derived Fuel in an Advanced Conversion Facility, generating electricity.
Lessons learnt
Reconciliation of air quality related issues involved extensive stakeholder consultation with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Glasgow City Council co-ordinated by Wardell Armstrong.

Despite the robust assessments undertaken, many of the public consultation responses received were in relation to health and pollution. Primary concerns included fears that the proposed facility may pose a risk to public health, following the closure of other plants in Scotland due to breach of operating conditions; that the facility would emit significant levels of substances harmful to human health; and that the assessment did not define or include data reflecting the effects of the newly opened M74 extension.

These issues had already been raised throughout the consultation process with SEPA and the wide range of information sources were considered to characterise baseline air quality, including monitoring locations close to the site and within the influencing distance of the M74.

SEPA confirmed that the assessment met the general principles and methodology of human health risk assessment and was appropriate to the facility, concluding that the contributions to local air quality would be unlikely to pose a risk to human health.

Even with well-planned early public consultation prior to the EIA and planning application submission, as well as the several additional information requests from the Planning Authority in response to public objections, an additional information event was requested. This was in response to particular concerns regarding air quality raised by parents of children at a local high school.

Wardell Armstrong and Viridor provided an additional two day exhibition part way through the determination process to address this, and as a result many concerns were resolved. However, turnout at the exhibition was not as anticipated, and this experience provokes consideration that additional ongoing consultation with local residents at an earlier date (perhaps in the first weeks following submission of the planning application) could have been carried out to further educate and inform local residents of the EIA outcomes and in particular re-emphasise that the development would present no risk to human health. This may have allowed for a smoother process in terms of public objections to the development.

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