



August 2009

**Sapphire Energy Recovery announces
Avonmouth chipper deal with Western Tyres**

Sapphire Energy Recovery – the resource recovery business owned by Lafarge Cement – is opening a new tyre chipping facility at Western Tyres' Avonmouth headquarters in the South West.

The business is leasing land at the Western Tyres facility in order to provide a secure outlet for used tyres for its customers across the South West.

Sapphire is the UK's leading processor of used tyres, with nationwide processing locations and a network of collectors across the country. It recently announced the acquisition of Willow Tyres in the South East due to the impending retirement of owner Ray Bates.

The majority of the tyres Sapphire collects are incorporated into the cement manufacturing process, making the most of the energy locked within them and reducing the amount of fossil fuels required to make cement - which in turn helps reduce CO₂ emissions and benefits the environment.

"We've had a long and healthy relationship with Western Tyres and have previously run a transfer facility from the Avonmouth site," said John Pickering, who manages sales and marketing and contract management for Sapphire Energy Recovery. "Developing a new processing facility at the site helps us make our environmentally sustainable operations more accessible through close proximity to the M5 and many of our customers in nearby Bristol."

Mike and Paul Stephens, who run Western Tyres, welcomed the development: "We've already benefited from having a Sapphire collection point onsite, but having additional processing facilities gives us direct access to an effective disposal system for used tyres, which helps us give peace of mind to our own customers."

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Western Tyres has been operating for over forty years – after building its reputation dealing in casings it branched into tyre collection, and now runs a service covering a 200-mile radius from its Avonmouth headquarters.

The business manages collection and disposal of all sizes of tyres, including car, light commercial, truck, agricultural and earthmover, all of which are responsibly recycled through various sources.

Sapphire's Avonmouth processing facility will be run by a team of four, headed up by Lee Pearce, who have all transferred from roles at Lafarge Cement's recently mothballed cement plant at Westbury. The team expects to process an estimated 10 – 15,000 tonnes a year at Avonmouth, and will supply cement kilns around the UK with the tyre chips. Overall, Sapphire Energy Recovery expects to process well over 18 million tyres in 2009, a significant increase on previous years' averages of 16 million.

Besides tyres, Sapphire sources and manages the introduction of a range of waste-derived fuels for the cement industry, including processed sewage pellets, meat and bone meal, and solid and liquid recovered fuels. It also manages waste-derived raw materials for use in cement kilns, such as alumina-rich materials (by-products from the water treatment process), fly ash and iron, industrial wastes with high silica content and by-products from the paper industry for calcium replacement.

Sapphire has OHSAS 18001 as well as ISO 9001 quality accreditation, and all of its processing centres in the UK are accredited with ISO 14001, registered to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and regularly monitored by the Environment Agency.

For more information, visit www.saphirerecovery.co.uk, or call 08452 602040.

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Notes to editors:**Sapphire Energy Recovery**

- Sapphire Energy Recovery is a resource recovery business owned by Lafarge Cement UK. It sources alternative fuels and raw materials for use by the cement industry, and carefully manages the introduction and use of such materials in cement kilns around the country.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery provides waste producers with an alternative to landfill or other disposal routes, and cement producers with replacement materials that can turn waste to energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. It also provides alternative raw materials thereby reducing reliance on natural resources.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery also offers a sustainable solution to the processing of end-of-life tyres in the UK by providing them for use as an alternative fuel for the cement industry.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery manages the used tyre supply chain to:
 - facilitate collection of end of life tyres from all sources including wholesalers, vehicle dismantlers and local authority schemes
 - bring tyres to a Sapphire processing centre via a regional collector network
 - produce a specific grade of chipped tyre proven to be the best size for combustion in the cement industry.
- All Sapphire Energy Recovery's processing centres in the UK are certified to ISO 14001, registered to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and regularly monitored by the Environment Agency.

Lafarge Cement

- Lafarge Cement is part of the Lafarge Group, the world leader in building materials, with top-ranking positions in all of its businesses: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete and Gypsum. With 90,000 employees in 76 countries, Lafarge posted sales of Euros 17.6 billion and net income of Euros 1.9 billion in 2007.
- Lafarge is the only company in the construction materials sector to be listed in the 2008 '100 Global Most Sustainable Corporations in the World'. Lafarge has been committed to sustainable development for many years, pursuing a strategy that combines industrial know-how with performance, value creation, respect for employees and local cultures, environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources and energy. It offers the construction industry and the public innovative solutions bringing greater safety, comfort and quality to their everyday surroundings.