



Methane capture at Hespín Wood

4 miles north of Carlisle.

A visit to Hespín Wood landfill site brings into focus the sheer volume of waste we produce in Cumbria.

Methane gas is a by-product of the decay and decomposition that occurs in landfill sites. At one time that methane was regarded simply as a waste by-product. Then the science of climate change brought to our attention the harmful effects of methane escaping from landfill sites.

Now, modern landfill sites can be designed in such a way as to capture the methane and make good use of it in generating electricity.



At Hespín Wood the captured methane drives a **1.3 Megawatt** turbine, producing enough electricity to **power 1,000+ homes**.

Those attending the Green Build Fortnight visit learned how methane is captured at Hespín Wood, and how the process might be adapted to smaller scale installations.

Delegates came from the Environment Agency, Impact Development Training Group, Eden Local Agenda 21, Crosscanoby Community, Eden District Council, and a number of individual members of the public.

In another solution to disposing of some of our organic matter, Hespín Wood is also home to Northern England's largest waste composting site. Garden waste collected around Carlisle and Eden Districts now goes through a process to create compost for sale to the public and for use in local horticulture.