

ERDF Project CASE STUDY



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which is supporting activity until June 2023, provides funds to help local economic growth. The funds are accessed directly by organisations, including local authorities and universities, which deliver programmes and grant schemes that businesses can benefit from. Funding can be accessed to support innovation and research, broadband coverage, low carbon and energy efficiency and growth in small and medium-sized businesses.

The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership area, which includes Shropshire, Telford and Herefordshire, was allocated £60m for the current funding period and this has supported a range of activities since 2016.

The Project: EBRI

The European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI) at Aston University provides practical solutions to businesses to explore the growing 'Energy-from-Waste' market.



The Business:

Edenviro Biomass specialises in the production and trading of biomass fuel and the management of organic waste based in Ludlow. Their mission is to create value out of waste, ultimately leaving a legacy for future generations. One area of focus is to help farmers and industries to work together to both grow their assets but also to minimise their environmental impact. The company take social responsibility seriously. They plant trees to offset their carbon emissions and give clients and the public the opportunity to take part in these projects

The Challenge:

Committed to providing sustainable and quality biomass fuel, Edenviro Biomass Ltd manages a woodland area in the region and collaborates with a local farm which has an anaerobic digester on site that uses corn and energy crops as feedstocks. They wished to see whether a by-product of the digester could be transformed into briquettes which could then be burned. The company needed advice to see if this was possible, how it could be achieved and whether there was a market for the product.

The Solution

Edenviro Biomass Ltd made contact with EBRI through an EBRI Value from Waste Masterclass. An opportunity for the company to discuss its ideas 1-2-1 with specialist academics from Aston University followed. EBRI then provided further support with a bespoke technical assessment of farm waste material and briquetting applications. This highly detailed report outlined the potential bioenergy market for waste biomass briquettes, an overview of the briquetting process and available technologies, the various applications for biomass briquettes, an analysis of samples provided by the company, the identification of any subsequent issues plus pre-treatment methods and potential alternative solutions. Following this detailed analysis of the potential product, issues were identified, but alternative uses suggested by EBRI are now being further investigated by the company.



For further information

ERDF projects designed to assist the local economy in Shropshire can be accessed by businesses until 2023. To find out about projects that could provide support for you please visit:

<https://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk/about-us/shropshire/> or call 01743 250526