

Fleet of UNTHA shredders aid AD project



When Biogen's AD operations were rapidly expanding in the UK, the food waste specialist turned to UNTHA for shredding technology to support their growing business...

Overview

Company: Biogen

Shredder: UNTHA RS40

Input Material: Food waste

Output / Goal: Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

Biogen is the UK's largest operator of food waste anaerobic digestion (AD) plants. The organisation takes organic materials from food manufacturers, retailers, pubs, restaurants, hotels, offices and homes (via local authorities) and processes them to create:

- Biogas, which is fed into a Combined Heat and Power unit to produce renewable electricity for the national grid.
- A pasteurised PAS110-certified digestate, which is returned to the agricultural industry as a biofertiliser to grow crops.

The team has carefully designed and built a number of plants to cost-effectively transform food waste into these valuable resources. UNTHA's shredding technology forms a key part of this system.

The shredders very much act as Biogen's 'front line' processing machines. They liberate unpackaged organic matter and materials stored in corn starch bags, achieving a core shred that the company's other sophisticated equipment can then handle.

The robust RS40s also provides a much-needed defence mechanism – they have no problem dealing with contaminants such as metals, which protects the rest of Biogen's plant and ensures there are no unwanted foreign objects in the AD feedstock.

Throughputs depend on the feedstock but the solution typically processes 8 tonnes/per hour, on average.

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UNTHA

shredding technology



Key features of UNTHA's specially-configured RS40 shredder for organic waste, include:

- Innovative cutter and sealing system, perfect for processing this complex and typically corrosive application
- Slow running technology, purposefully engineered to produce a reliable particle size
- Foreign object protection for a high-quality shred and to safeguard the technology from damage
- A robust construction with ease of operation for impressive uptime and productivity, plus machine durability
- Low running costs to minimise the long-term financial impact of the machine and boost ROI
- Ease of maintenance for minimal downtime, with the support of a knowledgeable aftersales team on hand.

Given the plants are incredibly valuable assets to the Biogen team, they take great care in ensuring the appropriate maintenance of all of technologies. For the shredder, there is a clearly-defined 'upkeep' regime. Biogen's engineers carry out daily machine inspections and cleans, and grease the gearboxes weekly to ensure optimal operational

performance. The RS40s are easy to operate and look after, by design, so the maintenance is no more excessive than this.

Every 12-18 months UNTHA's specialist engineers carry out an overhaul of the machinery, very much like an MOT. This is a proactive measure taken to safeguard the uptime and productivity of the plants.

"Whilst the RS40 is not necessarily the cheapest machine on the market, it does this difficult job very well. What's more, it is an incredibly cost-effective machine in terms of ongoing running costs and spare parts, and its productivity and uptime means it is a value-adding tool for our business."

When we work with technology providers, we often find that they are learning 'on the job' from our experienced food waste experts. However, UNTHA has been operating in this specialist field for some time, therefore they have a solid understanding of our industry and our complex shredding requirements."

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