

## Waste Management Case Study

### Background

The production of waste is a natural result of economic and social activity by businesses and consumers, and has been throughout human history. The key is to ensure that the value we extract from resources is not exceeded by the costs of using them, and therefore that we do not produce excessive amounts of waste. It is also important to make sure that waste is optimally managed, so that the costs to society of dealing with waste, including the environmental costs, are minimised. The way in which waste is managed has changed dramatically over the last twenty years in the UK, as have attitudes towards waste management. There has been a major decrease in waste being disposed of to landfill and an increase in recycling.



### Opportunity

Over the past few years, there has been significant progress with waste and resource management in England. Recycling and composting of household waste has increased to 43%; waste generated by businesses has declined by 29% and business recycling rates are 52%. Waste going to landfill has nearly halved since 2000. The key aim of the 'Waste Management Plan for England' is to set out how we work towards a zero waste economy as part of the transition to a sustainable economy. Areas where consultancy services are required include:

- Planning applications, Environmental Impact Assessments and public enquiries
- Noise assessments
- BREEAM assessments
- Air quality assessments
- Energy assessments
- Prediction of noise and noise contours
- Control of noise from waste handling, vehicle movements, incineration and all aspects of power generation
- Building and air handling design to mitigate noise
- Continuing compliance with planning requirements



### Solution

On a recent 'energy from waste' project that SRL were involved in we were able to identify a noise issue and save the contractor unnecessary work and costs. We completed a 3D noise mapping exercise for the plant and identified a problem with the air cooled condensers. To resolve the issue we suggested that larger fans should be installed but run at a lower speed. This accurate information stopped the contractor from looking at the possibility of adding expensive additional cladding to the building which would still not have cured the issue.