

Anger as eco-energy firm 'boycott' debate with locals

MORE than 60 people attended a meeting in Milford Haven last Thursday to discuss Egnedol's plans for a gasification plant at the town's Blackbridge site.

Organised by Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, the event was held at the Lord Nelson Hotel and representatives from Pembrokeshire County Council and Biofuelwatch spoke.

Many issues were left unanswered as Egnedol failed to send a speaker.

Speaking were: marine biologist Blaise Bullimore; Almuth Ernsting, co-director of Biofuelwatch; Chris Jessop, independent energy consultant; Ged Davies, Natural Resources Wales; Guy Woodham, county councillor for Milford East.

Local residents raised worries about the potential noise, smell and air pollution from the development, and questioned claims it could create 450 jobs.

The company proposes to

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build a facility for converting biomass into clean biogas.

Chris Jessop outlined the proposed workings of the plant. "Egnedol aim to burn 350,000 tonnes of wood or biomass derived from waste per hour. They say all fuel will come in by sea," he said.

Eleanor Clegg, coordinator of Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, said: "Sadly, key questions asked by residents were left without a final answer because Egnedol had decided to boycott the event. Their refusal to attend has done nothing to reassure our group and local people about the proposal."

Egnedol has yet to submit its application to the Planning Inspectorate. Once documents are received, the inspectorate will publicise the application and residents have five weeks to submit objections.



County councillor for Milford East, Guy Woodham, said Egnedol's absence sent a "negative message"