



Wyke Farms Sustainable Energy Visitor Centre Tour

27 members of our Parish Environment Champions and local businesses joined us on a tour around Wyke Farms flagship sustainable energy visitor centre and anaerobic digester plant near Bruton.

Our aim was to share knowledge of the sustainability and energy efficiency measures that Wyke Farms are implementing as part of their journey to carbon neutrality. Here's what we learnt:

- Wyke are one of the UK's largest independent producers of green biogas, generating enough to be self-sufficient; additional gas is then sold back into the grid to power local homes;
- The system links into their manufacturing operations through a combined heat and power unit;
- They generate the majority of their own electricity from solar PV;
- Produce and sell natural fertilisers for local farms using waste effluent from the digestate;
- Recover up to 90% of their water usage from operations; and
- Have integrated a *Green Business Strategy* supporting their suppliers financially to be more sustainable;
- The first cheese producer to receive a carbon neutral accreditation for one of their cheeses *Ivy's reserve vintage cheddar!*

"The key is to be a progressive business that doesn't stand still, to continue to challenge ourselves to find more sustainable ways to operate to enable us to farm and run a business for generations to come." Richard Clothier, CEO.

It wasn't all business however; we ended the session with a cheese tasting session afterwards. Yum!

You can watch an extract of Richard Clothier's presentation from the Circular Economy seminar October 2020 [here](#). Just click play.

