1. Define the following terms:

Ecotricity

Ecotricity, Britain’s leading green energy company, has today received planning permission to build a Green Gasmill in Hampshire – the first of its kind in Britain.

**A Green Gasmill takes grass harvested from local farms and converts it into natural gas. The gas is produced using a process called Anaerobic Digestion which breaks down the grass and creates the gas as part of the biological reaction.**

Located at Sparsholt College in Hampshire and fuelled by locally sourced grass, the Green Gasmill will inject £60 million into the local economy, create new jobs, and produce enough clean gas to heat over 4,000 homes every year.

As part of the unique partnership, Ecotricity will finance and build the Green Gasmill with an investment of £10 million, and also help fund the development of a Renewable Energy Demonstration Centre.

The College has agreed funding of £1.2m in grant funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership (M3 LEP) to go towards the development of the College’s Renewable Energy Demonstration Centre.

The Renewable Energy Demonstration Centre will also be the first of its kind – a place to train the next generation of green energy engineers in Britain.

Press statement from Ecotricity, 13 October 2016.

*Source:* [*www.ecotricity.co.uk*](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk)

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| Environment |  |
| Environmental considerations |  |
| Sustainability |  |

2. Ecotricity claims that gas from grass is an alternative to fracking. Why has the concept of fracking been so controversial in terms of ethical and environmental concerns? (4 marks)

Fracking is a new method of extracting gas from underneath the ground. It has recently been adopted in the United Kingdom. Although cost effective, there are a number of people who think that fracking is damaging to the environment. Concerns range from it damaging the underground water supplies to making the ground unstable and more likely to sink.

3. How might Ecotricity promote itself as an environmentally friendly company? (4 marks)

4. What are the potential disadvantages for Ecotricity linked to its aim of being environmentally friendly? (6 marks)

