



Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

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LOCAL COMPANY INVOLVED IN FIRST COMMERCIAL WAVE POWER PROJECT

Ocean Power Technologies (OPT), based in Warwick has announced that it has deployed its first PowerBuoy® under contract with Iberdrola S.A, one of the world's largest renewable energy companies, and its partners, at a site approximately 3 miles off the coast of Santoña, Spain.

First OPT Wave Power Station in Europe

The deployment of OPT's PB40 PowerBuoy is the latest milestone toward the building of the world's first commercial utility-scale wave power generation venture to supply approximately 1.39 MW of electricity into Spain's electricity grid. The PB40, incorporating OPT's patented wave power technology, is the first of what is expected to be a 10-PowerBuoy wave power station to be built out in a later phase of the project, and generating enough electricity to supply up to 2,500 homes annually.

This deployment represents an important step in OPT's commercialization of wave power as an economically-viable source of renewable energy.

Mark R. Draper, Chief Operating Officer of OPT, said: "This deployment is of great significance to OPT and the wave power industry, demonstrating the commercial potential of our leading technology after a decade of in-ocean experience. We now look forward to the first supplies of electricity to the grid and the expansion of the wave power station."

The project began with OPT's development of the Santoña site, followed by OPT's receipt of the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract under which it would build and install the first PB40 PowerBuoy system, subsea power transmission cable and underwater substation and grid connection. In a subsequent agreement, OPT was also contracted for operations and maintenance (O&M) of the wave power station for up to 10 years.

PowerBuoys provide a minimal visual profile due to most of their structure being submerged. They have a design life of 30 years with standard maintenance recommended every three to four years. The grid connection system for the PowerBuoys has been certified by an independent engineering firm.

The PB40 steelwork was fabricated by a local supplier in Santander, Spain, and the power take-off and control system was built at OPT's facility in New Jersey, USA. The final integration and testing of the complete PowerBuoy was also conducted in Spain. The PowerBuoy is 7 meters in diameter at the sea surface, 20 meters in length and weighs approximately 60 tonnes.





Man Bag Give-aways

A British Heart Foundation survey found that almost half of men said they do not consider recycling to be an important part of their daily routine. Mention the use of reusable bags rather than carrier bags and the vast majority will choose the disposable option.

In an effort to encourage men to use reusable bags, Warwickshire County Council will be offering residents reusable man bags at the following locations.

Wednesday 12th November 10am to 12pm, Market Place, Nuneaton

Friday 21st November 11am to 1pm, Market Square, Warwick

Switch it Off success

This year's Switch it Off campaign has once again received massive support across Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire with thousands of people joining in with the Big Switch Off, which took place Friday evening between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

Central Networks monitored the Big Switch Off on Friday evening and found a huge dip in the amount of energy used on the Friday evening, when compared to the same evening the previous week. A 22 MegaWatt drop in electricity demand was recorded which is equivalent to 3,192 typical three-bed detached houses turning off all their power for one year.

People are becoming increasingly aware of energy efficiency with energy bills having increased over the last few months. Whilst carrying out the give-aways in Stratford, Nuneaton and Bedworth we had a great opportunity to speak to people, asking them what if anything they Switch off, to our great surprise the majority of people said they all ready switched off lights and items left on standby when not in use so the switch it off message is definitely having an impact on people behaviour

The aim of the campaign was to get people thinking about the energy they are wasting in their home by leaving appliances on standby. Videos, set-top boxes, televisions and even the clocks on microwaves are using surprisingly high amounts of power everyday in our homes. The average family spends £400 a year on electricity and up to 25 per cent can be slashed from this by being more energy aware and switching off unused appliances.

According to the Energy Saving Trust nationally, 71 per cent of people regularly leave items on stand by in their homes, and 65 per cent of people leave lights on in rooms they are not using.

The threat of climate change is a real concern in today's world. Rising temperatures, increased risk of flooding and extreme weather patterns, are just some of the likely effects of climate change.

Carbon dioxide is the main climate change causing gas released into the atmosphere when we burn fossil fuels. In the UK, the energy we use to heat and power our homes accounts for 27 per cent of our total carbon dioxide emissions and this continues to rise.

Have your say



This is your newsletter and your opportunity to publicise any events you may be holding, and let other groups know what you are currently up to sharing your experiences. What do you want to see in future editions?

Please send all comments or enquiries about this newsletter and suggestions, for news items, case studies, details of events etc to

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Tip of the Month

Give unused medicines to a humanitarian organisation – Find a non profit organisation that accepts unused medicines. It will reduce the amount of medicine lying around your house that could fall into a young child's hands. 40% of poisoning cases involving children are the result of swallowing medicines not intended for them.

