

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS HELP POWER MILLENNIUM DOME

"Green" electricity produced from Thames Water sewage treatment works across London and the Thames Valley is to help power the Millennium Dome.

Sites throughout the capital, and a host of other locations such as Reading, Swindon and Oxford, will play their part in providing renewable energy to power the showpiece attraction.

The electricity is being supplied to the Dome through a joint venture, launched earlier this year, between Thames Water and the Renewable Energy Company.

Beckton Sewage Treatment Works, near Barking, east London, produces much of the power by burning sewage sludge, which until this year was disposed of at sea.

The remaining electricity is produced at other works across the region via the process of Combined Heat and Power, which uses methane given off when sewage sludge is heated during treatment.

Gordon Maxwell, Managing Director of Thames Water Utilities, said: "This pioneering partnership underlines our commitment to the environment and to innovation in our business.

"We are delighted to be a partner in the contract to supply the Millennium Dome. Along with our pioneering water-efficiency project, this 'green' power will also help promote the increasing importance of sustainability."

The company has already helped to make the Dome a model of water efficiency. Thames Water treatment technology will recycle water from the building's roof, as well as hand-basins from across the site and groundwater from a nearby borehole especially drilled by the company to help combat London's rising groundwater problem.

Gregor Harvie, Technical Manager at the New Millennium Experience Company, said: "The Millennium Dome is one of the most distinctive buildings in the world, and we are very pleased that it will be running on 'green' electricity."

Thames Water is the UK's largest water and sewerage company, supplying 12 million customers in London and the Thames Valley. Worldwide the company serves over 21 million people.

Notes to Editors: The full list of Thames Water sewage treatment works producing "green" power is: Aylesbury, Basingstoke, Beckton, Bishops Cleeve, Bracknell, Brentwood, Camberley, Crawley, Deepchamps (Edmonton), East Hyde (Near Luton), Hogsmill (Kingston), Kew, Long Reach (Dartford), Maple Lodge (near Rickmansworth), Mogden (Isleworth), Oxford, Reading, Riverside (Rainham), Rye Meads (near Ware), Slough, Swindon, Wargrave.

Thames Water's press releases can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.thames-water.com/latest/index.html>

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