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DUNDEE UNIVERSITY AND CLARKE ENERGY WIN TOP ENERGY AWARD FOR CHP

The University of Dundee and Clarke Energy Ltd have won a commendation in the 1999 Combined Heat and Power Association's "CHP in Buildings" Award for the CHP unit which produces energy for distribution around the central campus. The Award recognises the economic and environmental benefits produced by the CHP unit, the first installed at a Scottish university.

The Awards were presented to Peter Copeland, Estates & Buildings Officer for Dundee University, at the CHPA's annual dinner on 25 November by Stephen Timms MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

The University of Dundee has operated a 3 MW CHP plant for three years now. The plant works in conjunction with the University's community heating scheme, which distributes heat around the 130,000 m² of buildings which make up the central campus.

The CHP system, installed and commissioned by CHPA member Clarke Energy Ltd, was designed for extra quiet operation – its operation is inaudible in adjacent teaching spaces.

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Comprising three CHP units, the installation provides 97% of the electricity used on-site, and some 55% of the heat required. The system was sized very carefully to ensure a good match between output and the energy requirements of the site. It is controlled to respond automatically to changing energy loads and, incorporating three engines, can be serviced without loss of output.

The CHP system delivers energy cost savings worth £360,000 per year, and has cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 7,000 tonnes.

Receiving the Award, the University of Dundee's Peter Copeland said:

“The University is part of ‘Dundee – the Recycling City’ and recognises its environmental responsibilities. So reducing greenhouse gases is an important benefit, while reducing running costs enables more funds to be targeted into teaching and research.”

Welcoming the Award, Director of the CHPA David Green added:

“The University of Dundee’s successful CHP installation points the way forward for the whole further education sector. It saves the University money, improves its environmental performance and improve comfort levels in-site. I look forward to many more education establishments taking up CHP.”

The Awards Dinner followed the CHPA’s National Conference, held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, where over 200 delegates heard environment minister Michael Meacher restate the Government’s “continued and strong commitment to CHP”. Mr Meacher also confirmed that the Government is currently preparing a target to more than double the amount of CHP at work in the UK – to at least 10,000 MW of capacity by 2010.

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Other Award winners were:

- PowerGen CHP Ltd and Grovehurst Energy won the “CHP in Industry” and “President’s” Award, with British Sugar and Symonds Power & Energy, the Post Office Property Holdings and Nedalo (UK) Ltd, and English China Clays and BP Energy also winning commendations for “CHP in Industry”.
- Elyo Cofreth won the “CHP in Buildings Award” for the refurbishment of the Whitehall district energy system, with commendations to Combined Power Systems Ltd and Wrexham Borough Council.
- Southampton City Council won the “Community Heating” Award.

The Government announced earlier this month that energy users will not have to pay the Climate Change Levy on energy supplied from “good quality” CHP schemes. The winning entries for the CHPA Awards demonstrate both the wide range of industries and building types which can benefit from such schemes, and the scale of the benefits.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. The CHPA was advised on its Awards by a panel chaired by Lord Wade, President of the Association. The members of the panel were David Sigsworth, Chairman of the CHPA; Phil Nolan, Managing Director of Transco; Philip Ward, Director of the Energy and Waste Directorate at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions; Eoin Lees, Director of the Energy Saving Trust; Lesley Packer, Head of the Sustainable Energy Policy Division of the DETR; and David Green, Director of the CHPA.
2. CHP is the simultaneous generation of electricity and useful heat in a combined, efficient process that secures environmental benefits and thereby contributes to sustainability. A wide range of sizes, fuels and technologies may be used. Typical large fossil fuelled CHP schemes achieve thermal efficiencies greater than 70%.
3. For further information, please contact:
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4. For a photograph of the Awards presentation, please contact:
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