

28 October 2004

BANBURY RESIDENTS HELP THAMES WATER SAVE ENERGY

Banbury residents will soon be helping save energy every time they spend a penny.

Thames Water is to install new equipment at the town's sewage treatment works to generate heat and power from wastewater treated at the plant.

The company will spend £250,000 to equip the works, in Thorpe Mead Industrial Estate, with a combined heat and power (CHP) plant. It will use methane gas, a by-product of the sewage treatment process, as fuel in an adapted diesel engine.

The process will create 165 kilowatts of electricity, and a further 250 kilowatts of heat ? enough to power around 500 homes in total.

The electricity will be used to power the sewage treatment process, and will provide 15 per cent of the total electricity consumed by the plant.

The thermal energy will be fed directly into part of the sewage treatment process that uses bacteria to break down sludge.

Thames Water uses the CHP process at 18 sites across the company's region, producing around 19 megawatts of electricity ? enough to power 50,000 homes.

Banbury Sewage Treatment Works treats sewage and industrial effluent from 80,000 people in the area.

Nigel McClatchey, Thames Water's Project Manager, said: "The plant we're installing provides a very efficient way of generating power. It means we can use a by-product that would otherwise be wasted to reduce our energy consumption - and make the works more environmentally friendly."

Work on the project starts in January and will be completed by May.