



utilicom

News from Utilicom

Utilicom wins top award

Utilicom has scooped the top prize in the Services Category of the National Energy Efficiency Awards for its Southampton District Energy Scheme.

The company collected the top prize at a sparkling ceremony and dinner on 6 December at the Science Museum in London.

Southampton District Energy Scheme is an integrated energy scheme using combined heat and power and geothermal energy to provide electrical power, hot water for heating and chilled water for air conditioning.



The scheme is a 20 year old partnership between private company, Utilicom, and the City Council, and a new agreement for a further 25 years has just been signed. The scheme now has over 40 large commercial clients and in excess of 1,400 domestic customers. It has 11 kilometres of mains, reduces carbon emissions in the City by over 11,000 tonnes a year and saves customers £300,000 each year in energy costs. The carbon saving provided by the project is making a major contribution to Southampton's greenhouse gas targets. It provides an excellent model for local authorities throughout the UK to both reduce pollution and pass on savings to businesses and householders.



Figure 1. Utilicom's Southampton Geothermal Heating Company's facilities - West Quay, Southampton.

Judges praised the entry for: "Joined up thinking resulting in joined up energy provision on a truly impressive scale – reducing energy use and saving money for residents and businesses alike."

Simon Woodward, Utilicom's Chief Executive said, "We are delighted to win this award against strong opposition from some of the biggest players in the UK energy industry. The award provides independent validation of Utilicom's position as the UK's leading developer and provider of district energy schemes."

Brad Roynon, Southampton City Council's Chief Executive said, "Southampton City Council is extremely proud to be associated with this successful company in winning this national award, -one in which our partnership in the Southampton Geothermal Heating Scheme has played such an important part and which for over 25 years has delivered affordable and sustainable energy to the community of Southampton"

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Notes to Editors

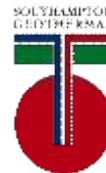
Further information from Mike Smith on 01425 475370. Email: mike.smith@utilicom.co.uk

Utilicom is the UK's leading provider of district energy schemes and is part of the IDEX Group; the largest privately owned Energy Services Company in France. The Group has over 3000 employees and an annual turnover of €400 million.

Utilicom's own head office is in Crawley, West Sussex but it has operational bases throughout the UK.

In 2001 Utilicom received the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development.

The Southampton Geothermal Heating Company (SGHC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Utilicom Group. SGHC was established in 1987 in partnership with Utilicom and Southampton City Council to delivery a citywide district energy scheme utilising efficient sustainable energy technologies. The scheme features large and medium scale Combined Heat and Power (CHP), energy extracted from a geothermal well and large scale chilled water plant used for air conditioning purposes across the City.



These first National Energy Efficiency Awards were organised by the UK Centre for Economic & Environmental Development (UK CEED) to recognise good practice in this increasingly important area. The Awards highlight the importance of energy efficiency in combating climate change and increasing the take up of energy efficiency measures among business, government and consumers.

Supported by DEFRA, the Awards have been presented for successful implementation for innovative, cost effective and transferable energy efficiency measures across a number of categories.

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