

Sun in Cornwall "turns holidaymakers green"



A Cornish holiday park is helping to cut the environmental impact of thousands of holidaymakers in the Duchy this summer, thanks to state-of-the-art solar technologies.

The installation of 12 square metres of solar collectors at Tehidy Holiday Park near Redruth has been carried out by Cornish renewable energy specialists Capture Energy.

It will provide help provide hot water for washing and showering to around 7,000 thousand people during the season, and is forecast to cut the park's electricity bill by up to £2,000 a year.

As well as the financial savings, the Capture Energy system will be used to promote the Park to would-be visitors and enhances its existing green credentials.

Nathan Billings, Capture Energy's Technical Director said: "The system we have installed will reduce the need for electrical heat even on fairly cloudy days, and will pre-heat the water all year round. This has been an exciting project for us and a win-win situation for the Park. They save money and are able to market its environmental focus."

The system includes solar collectors on the roof of the Park's toilet block and a new hot water system to supply its showers and washbasins. All showers and taps are self closing to make the most of the hot water. The block serves the Park's 38 camping pitches, which together are occupied for around 7,000 bed nights a year.

Capture Energy carried out a full site survey to confirm that solar heating would be the most suitable of the technologies currently on offer, including wind power, wood pellets, solar collectors and heat pumps.

Last year Tehidy Holiday Park was a David Bellamy Conservation Award winner for its environmental work.

Richard Barnes, Tehidy Holiday Park's owner said: "Our park is set in a beautiful wooded valley near the coast, and we already have a number of initiatives in place to make sure we protect both the local and global environment. The solar heating will complement those, and save us money to boot. More and more of our guests are actively seeking out the most environmentally friendly park, so this will also give us a competitive edge."

The installation includes six German-manufactured Roth F2 roof-mounted solar collectors, each almost two metres by one metre square. A glycol flows through copper pipes behind special solar glass, and is heated to temperatures around of around 80 degrees Celsius.

This fluid then heats water contained in un-vented cylinders. To improve the system's efficiency, two cylinders, known as a cascade system, have been installed before the water is provided to guests' showers or taps.

Nathan continued: "The system we have installed is probably the most technologically advanced and efficient available on the market. But with an increasing number of options for incorporating renewable energy in buildings, it's important to choose the right type of technology, whether that be capturing energy from the wind, sun or earth. For Tehidy Holiday Park, solar collectors were clearly the right choice."

More information on Capture Energy is available by visiting www.capture-energy.co.uk, or calling 01209 716 861.

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