

BlueGEN Fuel Cell Model – Edinburgh Napier University

A demonstrator BlueGEN Fuel Cell unit was installed in the property and facilities department at Edinburgh Napier University's Merchiston campus. The social enterprise iPower covered the cost of supplying and installing the unit, while the university pays for its servicing and the gas consumed, in return it gets free use of all the electricity and heat which is generated.

As the first Scottish installation of BlueGEN, Edinburgh Napier has demonstrated the future potential for the technology and the funded BlueGEN business model on both domestic and business premises.

The university will use the installation for educational purposes within the School of Engineering and the Built Environment, and for demonstrations to external audiences.

As well as reducing energy costs, the use of BlueGEN fuel cells helps meet national targets for reducing CO2 emissions. Each unit typically reduces CO2 emission by up to 3.6 tonnes a year.

Richard Cebula, energy and utilities manager at Edinburgh Napier University, said: *"Given the university's own research involvement and the need to explore different ways to reduce operational carbon emissions, it was considered constructive to install the BlueGEN as a working example of alternative micro combined heat and power."*

"Despite the science behind the system being well known, BlueGEN is still at the stage of early adoption. Although the energy produced is small scale, the Merchiston installation is regarded as a proving ground for further development and use of this renewable electricity and heat generating technology which is eligible for Feed-In-Tariff payments to assist in covering the additional costs associated with early uptake renewables."

"It is hoped that the university will be able to further utilise the BlueGEN and similar technology on a larger scale within its buildings in its bid to achieve its ambitious carbon reduction targets. Self-generation of electricity is increasingly becoming a more critical element of carbon management."

Note: BlueGEN can be installed in multiple units in student blocks where the University provides each student flat with electricity and as single installations (one per MPAN) for other buildings.

