



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH WEST



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Newsletter

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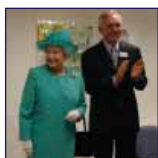
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All aboard to save the planet



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An elite group gathered in June for a celebratory cruise to mark 30 years of quietly saving the planet.

However, it was not a posse of super heroes who boarded the paddle steamer 'Waverley' at Clevedon pier, but 260 members and guests of the South West Energy and Environmental Management Groups supported by GOSW.

They were letting their hair down after spending the last three decades saving money for businesses and the public sector by improving energy efficiency, cutting waste - and at the same time, saving the earth's resources.

The Avon and Somerset EEMG was the first group to be established in the UK back in 1976; four groups cover the South West, and it is probably one of the longest-running environmental networks in the country as well.

Important for businesses

The member's achievements include helping a big engineering company to cut its water, electricity and heating oil bills by more than £1 million and a Dorset local authority to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60 per cent by

buying renewable energy for buildings and street lighting.

Phil Harding, GOSW's Head of Sustainable Business, says: *"Surviving and thriving for 30 years is a remarkable achievement. And I am sure that the importance of this work will move increasingly to the forefront in the future as more businesses and public service bodies across the South West acknowledge that effective energy and environmental management is crucial to business and operational performance."*

So there was plenty to celebrate, but being responsible energy and environmental managers, they made sure that the planet didn't suffer as a result of their partying.

The Waverley is a fine ship, built in 1947, the oldest ocean-going paddle steamer left in the world - but, of course, she runs on fossil fuel. The oil burnt during the evening trip along the Welsh and English coastlines will be made 'carbon neutral' by the purchase of 'carbon offset' tree-planting through South West-based www.co2balance.com to cancel out the CO2 emitted.

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