

The **co-operative** bank
good with money

Case study: Natural History Museum

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Gary Fielding,
Managing Director
Vital Energi

Customer: Vital Energi

Project: Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system

Energy costs have been cut and carbon dioxide emissions reduced by 1,800 tonnes a year at the Natural History Museum following the installation of a tri-generation system to deliver electricity, heating and cooling.

The original boiler house at the Natural History Museum (NHM) was installed in 1952 and used to distribute heat to a number of adjacent museums and colleges. But in recent years, it had become clear that the heating system was too big, inefficient and in need of refurbishment. So when the nearby Science Museum and Imperial College overhauled their heating operations, the NHM decided to follow their lead and installed a state-of-the-art Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system.

Vital Energi of Bolton, a specialist in providing energy from sustainable sources, undertook the design, supply, installation and commissioning of the necessary plant and equipment to provide tri-generation of electrical power and heating services to both the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum next door.

The project is guaranteed to save the NHM at least £500,000 every year over the next 15 years and achieve a reduction of 1,800 tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

A knowledgeable partner

Vital Energi weren't prepared to compromise when it came to their funding partner and found The Co-operative Bank more than measured up. Gary Fielding, Managing Director at Vital Energi says, "This was a highly complex project executed within stringent time and quality constraints by Vital Energi's own team of expert staff. We're pleased to say that our funding partners, The Co-operative Bank, delivered their part of the bargain with equal standards and expertise."

The renewable finance provided by The Co-operative Bank was put towards the installation costs of a 1.8MW gas fired CHP engine, two 750KW absorption chillers to utilise CHP waste heat for heating and cooling purposes, and the installation of two new cooling towers.

Chris Matthews, Senior Business Development Manager from The Co-operative Bank's Head Office in Manchester, structured the finance for the deal. "This is a fantastic project. The National History Museum's building might date back to Victorian times, but it houses an energy centre fit for the 21st century. Seeing the reduction in CO₂ emissions and energy saving makes the bank's contribution even more worthwhile."



Simon Tilleard, Facilities Manager at the NHM and Kelvin Cheetham, Technical Support Manager from the Renewable Energy and Asset Finance Team at The Co-operative Bank.

**Speak to our Renewable Energy
and Asset Finance Team**
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