

Eco-boat project Status Report - January 2005-02-04

Work on the project was started by Newcastle University in December 2004 and is progressing well. At the end of January, the bulk of the work on the state of the art review has been completed, and attention is being turned towards the second stage, the elicitation of local knowledge.

The review looked at alternative fuel sources, such as biodiesel and fuel cells, systems to harness natural energy, like solar and wind power, regenerative propulsion and exhaust waste heat utilisation. The technology to utilise power through new or unusual propulsion systems and intelligent battery charging was studied and efficient motor/generator sets were included.

Innovative materials have been considered, to increase the reuse and recycling of boats, particularly hulls, and to reduce their landfill impact.

The impact of a boat on its local environment has been considered through wake and noise reduction, and decreasing air and water pollution from the day to day running of the craft. The handling of waste from the craft is also considered.

The final category which has been studied is the application of 'sustainable lifestyle techniques', many of which are becoming common practice in the home, to the boating holiday environment.

Local Knowledge. Melanie Landamore, the researcher, will now be interviewing all members of the Association, and any other interested parties over two weeks, beginning the 7th February, to gain an understanding of the issues relevant to them, and their opinion of the likely or desired impact of this project on their business and the local area and industry as a whole.

A workshop is being held on the evening of Thursday March 3rd, in the Tea room at Wroxham Barns, with the opportunity for members to discuss together the preliminary findings and ensure local views are well represented in the final reports.

For full details of the work or to give your views about the project, please email:

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