

Saughton Park Micro-hydro Scheme has Bespoke Archimedes Screw Installed

The latest feature in Saughton Park's stunning £8m refurbishment, a 10-tonnes and 10 metres long Archimedes Screw, made quite a splash when it was hoisted into position earlier today [1 Oct 2019].

The made-to-measure device, capable of generating 39Kw, arrived in Edinburgh from the Netherlands earlier this week and will bring the park's pioneering micro-hydro scheme one step closer to full operation, ensuring the park is fully eco-powered.



Archimedes Screw lowered into the Water of Leith at Saughton Park – Greg Macvean Photography

Ground source heating is already up and running in the park's buildings and glasshouse and the hydro-power generated by the Archimedes screw using water directly from the Water of Leith will provide electricity across the park.

Combined with the two ground source heating installations, the micro-hydro scheme will prevent over 90 tonnes of CO₂ being pumped into the atmosphere each year, while generating enough energy to power the whole park (lighting, buildings including the new cafe, due to open later this year).

The micro-hydro scheme project was partially financed thanks to £482,107 from the SP Energy Networks Green Economy Fund.

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said: “What an incredible milestone this is, not just for Saughton Park but for Edinburgh as a whole. Having been instrumental in bringing this forward and pushed it for over a decade I am delighted to see it become a reality.



– Archimedes Screw lowered into the Water of Leith at Saughton Park – Greg Macvean Photography

“We’ve set ourselves a hugely ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and projects like this are just the kind of innovative, collaborative, multi-partner model we need to see more of in the Capital. The Archimedes screw has been installed as part of the micro-hydro scheme and I know it will

be a real draw for visitors to this already fabulous and much-loved park.”