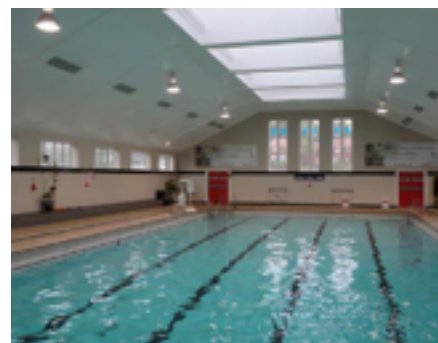


Fenham Swimming Pool Solar Thermal Project



Olympic champion Linford Christie official opens solar swimming pool project

Fenham Swimming Pool with the help of Northburn Solar Ltd have installed a 53kW (76m²) flat plate solar thermal system to provide direct heating to the swimming pool. The system is predicted to deliver almost 30,000kWh solar heat energy per year, equivalent to over 60% of the energy required to heat the pool. The installation was part-funded with donations made by British Airways passengers through the PURE One Destination Carbon Fund.

Fenham Swimming Project is a registered charity that reopened the local swimming pool after Newcastle City council made a decision to close the pool. The facility is used by seven local schools and over 2,000 children per month take part in the pool's own swimming classes. It also supports the local community through special sessions for minority groups and training for aquatic and first aid qualifications. Through using renewable solar energy to heat the water the pool will reduce its energy costs and cut its carbon emissions making it both more environmentally and economically sustainable.

The pool had already embarked on a range of energy efficiency measures including replacement doors, windows and skylight and automatic controls for pool heating. The financial benefits, generated by reducing the fuel cost of heating the pool and through Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments, will help to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity. Centre Manager, Michael Lea, said *'We will look to work with the schools whose pupils use our facilities to increase their interest in renewable energy and climate change.'*

Former Olympic sprinter and Gold Medalist Linford Christie officially unveiled the new solar thermal system in June 2012 with guest speakers including Newcastle's Lord major councillor Jackie Slesenger and Local MP Chi Onwurah.