

Air Quality Strategy Case Studies

MBNA Thames Clippers

MBNA Thames Clippers operates a modern fleet of passenger vessels on the River Thames. One third of the MBNA Thames Clippers fleet is now biofuel compliant as part of the business' preparation towards being able to run boats on renewable energy sources in the future, should this be viable.

The newest additions to the MBNA Thames Clippers fleet have an improved hull design that decreases drag and therefore lowers fuel consumption. Two of the most recent additions have engines that are more fuel efficient and another two craft are being constructed to achieve the same performance.

Thames Clippers is involved in running a number of projects to improve performance of its fleet, including partnering with academics and boat yards to find innovative designs for new vessels.

They have also run a retro-fitting programme to add new powertrain mechanisms to their oldest vessels in order to reduce fuel consumption and emissions. All their vessels have been fitted and this has resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in particulates, 40 per cent less Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Hydrocarbon (HC) emissions, for every litre of fuel used.

MBNA Thames Clippers is currently building an upgraded home port facility at Trinity Buoy Wharf, located opposite The O2. This new port facility will allow all vessels to be connected to shore power over night, rather than being powered by diesel generators. The project is estimated to save about 100,000 litres of diesel, annually. The new facility will also enable the operator to pump out waste water from the vessels and directly into the London sewer system rather than other inefficient means.

Additionally, MBNA Thames Clippers is currently in the process of constructing a new dry dock facility at Tilbury Docks which will provide a new maintenance facility much closer to London for vessels to be lifted out of the water. This facility will enable significant operational efficiencies as it will be much closer to London, whereas its current facility is about 45 miles outside the city, approximately 3–4 hours by river.

