

Green Marine Centre

A Convergence Funded Hayle Harbour Redevelopment Project

Project Mission Statement

The National Marine Aquarium is the charity dedicated to inspiring everyone to enjoy, learn and care about our oceans through amazing, memorable experiences.

Delivery of this mission is currently primarily achieved through the use of Britain's largest public aquarium in Plymouth as a focus for dedicated programmes of science and learning.

Our mission in Hayle is to create a carbon-neutral centre for the study and promotion of the benefits provided by the sea to society through healthy lifestyles, renewable energy and sustainable learning.

The centre, incorporating a small aquarium, a residential facility, a cinema and a green water sports centre will be a celebration of our relationship with the natural environment; providing employment, income and inspiration for the local community.

People and the Sea – Valuing the Marine Environment

The research activity of the National Marine Aquarium, in collaboration with local scientific partners, focuses upon the understanding and communication of the positive benefits offered by the marine environment.

The “Healthy Glow” that is produced by time spent in and around the sea can benefit an individuals mental wellbeing and physical health in ways that are currently poorly understood. The Green Marine centre will offer an opportunity to develop this programme and, in turn, feed back the outcomes of research for the benefit of the local community and wider society.

Scientific and communication activity will also develop the current themes of renewable energies and biodiversity associated with artificial marine structures, building on the research carried out on the Scylla Reef. The Wave Hub and offshore renewable energy installations in the vicinity provide the opportunity to study and communicate not only the benefits of renewable energy in the reduction of carbon output, but also wider issues relating to seabed biodiversity and *de facto* marine protected areas.

Importantly, the centre will be an exemplar, demonstrating how sustainable buildings, technologies and lifestyles can be developed to complement, and enrich, the natural environment.

Contribution to the Hayle Area Plan 2005-25

The Green Marine Centre is able to contribute significantly to the strategic themes identified in the area plan, notably the development of Hayle as “a unique water-front environment” and “The national centre for sustainable water-based energies”.

We identify with the priority areas in the plan.

Traffic & Transport. The need to provide easy access to Hayle and therefore the Green Marine Centre will be an important consideration.

Business, Enterprise and Economy. Our interests are linked closely to this priority. With careful planning and by working together, the centre will contribute all year round to the local economy.

Community Well-being. We recognise the importance of the Community and the Green Marine Centre intends to play its full part in helping to achieve this objective. The provision of a community usable facility within the project will be incorporated into the feasibility study.

Heritage, Culture, Environment and Sustainability. The environment and sustainability are core themes of the project and we will consult and examine how best the project can be developed to be sympathetic to, and beneficial for, the culture and heritage of the area.

The Power of Partnerships

The National Marine Aquarium will benefit from its national and regional reputation and connections to develop a number of key partnerships that will ensure the success and sustainability of the project.

Relationships with RSPB, Natural England, Peninsular Medical School, University of Plymouth, Cornwall Collage and Cornwall County Council will be developed and formalized through the planned feasibility study. Other partnership opportunities will be identified and developed in line with the goals of the project.

Feasibility Study - Outline

The feasibility study will be carried out to enable the project team to:

- Consolidate partnerships
- Create detailed building plans
- Identify and fully examine funding opportunities
- Build a business case for this unique venture.
- Engage with the community to gain support and guidance