GeoPura®

BBC

Sustainable Power Now

SECTORS: Film & TV



BBC Case Study

Springwatch, Autumnwatch & Winterwatch

The HPU technology has been truly tried and tested by the BBC Natural History unit over several years of Springwatch, Autumnwatch and Winterwatch series that GeoPura has powered. Two 250kW HPUs were used to power the production village, including cameras, lighting and sound equipment.

Springwatch has once again demonstrated the potential for all large-scale television productions to switch to reliable, clean and off-grid energy and transition away from diesel generators in the industry.

Location	RSPB Arne, England
Dates	2021-2024
Equipment	2 x HPU1

KEY METRICS

CO_2 saved	XX tonnes
NOx saved	XX tonnes
PM saved	XX kg

APPLICATIONS

- Back Up Power
- Critical Power
- Grid Augmentation
- Off-Grid Power

Challenges

> Hard to access remote, off-grid locations.

> Critical power needed for live broadcasting.

> Sustainable alternative to diesel generators needed.

> Sensitive environments e.g. nature reserves.

Solutions

> GeoPura HPU utilised to provide reliable, consistent power during live broadcasting.

> Experienced teams to advise and oversee implementation of equipment and systems.

> Better working conditions for production team involved due to improved air quality from zero-emission energy generation.

About the project



Typically based in environmentally sensitive locations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and nature reserves, it's imperative our equipment does not have an impact on the surrounding area and the wildlife in these highly protected environments. Our HPUs are designed to operate at much lower noise levels than traditional diesel generators and of course, do not emit any toxic fumes or emissions. This means power can be generated in a controlled manner with minimal disruption to the local environment and staff working on site, as well as having the long-term benefit to the wider climate change by not producing any greenhouse gases or carbon emissions.

Due to the live broadcasting nature of these series, it is imperative that critical power is sustained at all times to ensure the live feeds are not interrupted at any point. The technology utilised in the HPU's design includes two uninterruptable power systems as well as on-board battery systems to guarantee consistent, high levels of power are always available. The HPU can also augment grid connections to ensure that during peak demand periods, the energy levels required are still maintained. for use on site elsewhere, the HPU also runs significantly quieter than traditional generators, improving the working environment for contractors on site.

Making another TV first, the GeoPura 250kW Hydrogen Power Unit (HPU) powered each of the 12 live Springwatch broadcasts over the course of the show's 3 week run from May 25 to June 11 with 100% clean energy.

After making broadcasting history earlier in the year using the generator for critical back up and additional power augmentation for Winterwatch for the first time, BBC Studios Natural History Unit doubled down on its commitment to using the generator for Springwatch 2021, following through on its efforts to achieve the BBC's goal to be net zero in terms of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

What our client says

"Change is the only way we will begin to tackle the climate crisis. And that means taking action. I am very pleased that Springwatch has been leading the way in the drive to reduce the carbon footprint of its production. It's incredibly important that we can pioneer the use of new technologies and methods then others will follow and then we have meaningful progress. So personally I would like to extend a massive vote of thanks and admiration to the team that has made this work. Top work!"

Chris Packham, TV Presenter,
BBC Springwatch

Find out more

Watch our video case study here.