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Green energy 'a first'

A WORLD first in sustainable energy technology will be further developed off Rockingham's shore over the next two years.

Carnegie Wave Energy has been trialling a CETO technology system that operates under water anchored to the ocean floor off Fremantle for some time.

That technology is environmentally friendly, has no visual impact and attracts marine life.

It is fully submerged in deep water away from popular surf breaks and is safe from storms.

Submerged buoys are tethered to seabed pump units and move in harmony with the motion of waves, driving pumps which, in turn, pressurise water that is delivered to the shore through a pipeline.

The high pressure water is used to drive

hydro-electric turbines generating zero-emission electricity.

The high pressure water can also be used to supply a reverse osmosis desalination plant – a technology that would replace greenhouse gas emitting electric pumps used for desalination.

Carnegie chief operating officer Greg Allen presented the system at Cruising Yacht Club in Rockingham on Tuesday.

He said this month was the start of commercial scale trials to be carried out in the Sepia Depression between the Five Fathom Bank and Garden Island.

By the end of 2011 there will be 30 CETO units in the Sepia Depression generating 5MW of electricity – enough to power 3500 homes.

Mr Allen said the system could easily be added on to if and when required.

Yvonne Thompson