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Innovative renewables project uses algae to produce biofuels at Scotland's oldest working whisky distillery

--- Trials of St Cyrus-based Scottish Bioenergy Ventures' innovate bioenergy technology prove to be a huge success ---

INNOVATIVE renewable energy company **Scottish Bioenergy Ventures** has successfully completed the first phase of a trial at Scotland's oldest working whisky distillery in which algae converts carbon dioxide into biofuels.

The next phase of the project will see Scottish Bioenergy Ventures build a reactor at **Glenturret distillery in Crieff** – home to the award winning Famous Grouse Experience – capable of capturing and converting 20 tonnes of CO₂ into 6,000 litres of biofuel over the next 12 months.

Phase one of the trials involved an innovate process of capturing CO₂ from the distillery's boiler exhaust and percolating the gas through algae reactors, converting it into oils and protein which can be used as fuel for the distillery.

The algae reactors also successfully eliminated chemicals and captured copper from the wastewater, reducing even further the environmental impact of the distilling process and reducing costs.

David Van Alstyne, founder and Chief Executive of **St Cyrus-based** Scottish Bioenergy Ventures, said: "The results from the first phase of the project are extremely encouraging and we are confident the next stage will be a huge success.

"The process has not only proved to be capable of producing biofuels from CO₂ but it can also help reduce the environmental impact of the distilling process by reducing nitrates and phosphates and capturing copper in wastewater.

"We are grateful for the support and encouragement from The Edrington Group in backing such an innovate project using cutting-edge technology."

Dr Willam Crilly, Edrington's Technical Support Manager, added: "The results from the first phase of the demonstration project have been very positive and we look forward to working with Scottish Bioenergy to help it advance this innovative technology, which will be of benefit to not just Glenturret distillery but the Scotch whisky industry in general."

Glenturret Production Manager Neil Cameron added: "We as a company have a strong commitment to protecting the environment and are always looking for new ways to minimise the impact of the distilling process. Scottish Bioenergy Venture's

technology has shown real promise in doing this area and we have been pleased to assist in its ongoing development.”

Scottish Bioenergy Ventures was founded in 2007 and its innovative technology has already seen it shortlisted for the prestigious **Shell Springboard** awards, which provide a financial boost to low carbon business ideas from across the UK.

Glenturret, which was built in 1775, is the most popular distillery visitor attraction in Scotland with more than 100,000 tourists going through its doors during 2008.

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