

MOSS FARM LEISURE CENTRE GOES GREEN!

In December 2008 a leisure centre in the North West refurbished one of their swimming pool filters and at the same time helped do their bit for the environment!

Moss Farm Leisure complex in Northwich, Cheshire is a multi-purpose centre which provides both wet and dry leisure facilities for the local community. At the heart of the complex are two swimming pools which provide excellent leisure and training facilities for people of all ages. Keeping both swimming pools crystal clear and inviting to swim in, is an involved process, which requires a plant room of equipment to treat, heat and re-circulate the water around the pools. At the focal point of



this process are the pool water filters. The filters are usually filled with sand, which acts as a filtering media to filter out suspended solids and as a result prevent bacteria entering the pool water.

The 12.5m training pool at Moss Farm is home to a diverse swimming lesson programme which caters for everyone from babies to grandparents and as a result of this thriving programme the training pool filtration system was in need of a refurbishment. At the centre of the overhaul was replacing the filter media with Eco Glass Filter Media (EGFM).

Total Pool Chemicals of Chester, providers of pool maintenance work took the opportunity to undertake the refurbishment. Steve Carder at Total Pool explains, "As EGFM is manufactured from recycled bottles, jars and containers collected from UK bottle banks it is more readily available than silica sand which is a finite resource. This along with its green credentials and superior performance makes EGFM a viable alternative to silica sand when it comes to replacing filter media"

Six months after the refurbishment had been completed staff at the leisure complex and the local council were full of praise for the environmentally friendly media. Paula Jamieson, Leisure Centre Manager at Moss Farm comments, "We have noticed a significant saving on backwashing after changing from sand to EGFM and we are currently in the process of running a sequence of trials to support these views." Cheshire West and Chester Council's Culture and Recreation Executive Member Councilor Richard Short also stated: "We are helping

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EGFM is not only suitable to commercial pool applications, but can work just as effectively in domestic sand filters.