



Search for

Home page

News

[Regional news](#)

[UK and world news](#)

[Anthony Walker](#)

[Michael Shields](#)

[Stub It Out](#)

[Bully Busters](#)

[Echo letters](#)

[Forces News](#)

[Post Points](#)

[Shortpoints](#)

[The Debate](#)

[Capital of Culture](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Blogs](#)

[Online Ticket Shop](#)

[Games](#)

[Motors](#)

[Jobs Merseyside](#)

[Homes](#)

[Everton FC](#)

[Liverpool FC](#)

[Tranmere Rovers](#)

[Sport](#)

[Business](#)

[Dating](#)

[Play Bet and Win](#)

[Letter from Santa](#)

[Golfers' Chronicle](#)

[Online Shop](#)

[Family Notices](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Business finder](#)

[Beatles](#)

[Cartoons](#)

[ExPats](#)

[Our Newspapers](#)

[Sunrise Fund](#)

[Money](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Travel](#)

[Communities](#)

[Weather](#)

[Contact us](#)

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Regional news

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Blackpool illuminations to harness the power of donkey dung

Oct 18 2005

Daily Post

DONKEY dung could be used to power lights in next year's Blackpool illuminations if a new experiment proves successful.

A London-based design team has developed five prototype machines able to use waste from the resort's donkeys to power lamps.

Together with organisers of Blackpool's Festival of Light, General Designs came up with the idea to mark the start of national Energy Saving Week next Monday.

[Story continues](#)



Although the festival organisers do not believe there are enough donkeys in the town to power all the illuminations, they hope the experiment will "get the ball rolling" in their search for alternative sources of energy.

Festival director Philip Oakley said: "We have one of the biggest light shows in the world and we are trying to come up with some new ideas to see how we might be able to power the illuminations. "At first the designers were going

to power the machines with kitchen waste, but seeing as we have the donkeys on our doorstep we decided it would make more sense to use their waste as well."

He said the Zero Emission Luminaires worked by being loaded with donkey dung and placed in sunlight.

The manure fermented, produced methane and carbon dioxide, and the gas was then burnt off to power lanterns.

The machines can also use household waste.

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