

## Edinburgh Zoo, United Kingdom

As the temperature continues to drop, two young males in Scotland are oblivious to the cold as their brand new environmentally friendly heat pumps raise the temperature in their indoor swimming pool to a roasty toasty 32 degrees Celsius.

These are males with a difference though, as Samir and Bertus are Greater one-horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) at Edinburgh Zoo. Both six years old and weighing around two tonnes, the boys are delighted with their Ecodan renewable air source heat pump system supplied by Mitsubishi Electric, which will also help the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, the conservation charity that owns and manages Edinburgh Zoo, to reduce both running costs and emissions by around 30 per cent.



Bertus and Samir are firm friends as they have been together since they were 18 months old, even though male rhinos are usually solitary. When fully mature, it is likely that they will be paired with potential mates at other homes in Europe as part of the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP).

In the wild, Greater one-horned rhinos can be found in Assam, India and over the border into Nepal. They inhabit tall grass forests, but increasingly they have to use more cultivated land as man has encroached on their habitat.

Their population has been decimated through poaching with only pockets of them remaining in the wild in India and Nepal.

The entire project is part of Edinburgh Zoo's renewable and carbon reduction strategy, with the results being monitored to help the organisation decide on the best way to use renewable heating across the complex.