Several companies on Canada’s west coast are developing technologies to capture the energy produced from waves and tidal currents. In 2006, Clean Current Power Systems, a Vancouver-based company, installed a 65-Kilowatt tidal turbine at Race Rocks Ecological Reserve, located at the eastern entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The tidal technology was the first of its kind in Canada to produce electricity by supplying power to a battery storage system.

With the success of this prototype, Clean Current was selected as one of three technologies worldwide to be demonstrated at a commercial scale in 2010 at a test site on the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia. Natural Resources Canada is working with Clean Current to determine how to best deploy this technology at the site.

Tidal current technologies are emerging worldwide, and considerable research, development and demonstration are required for testing to ensure their practicality and survivability. Oceans represent a powerful resource, with the potential to produce significant amounts of renewable energy power. The location chosen for this project and the technologies used demonstrate a clear opportunity for sustainability and ecoinnovation at its best.

With Canada having one of the world’s longest coastlines, marine energy has the potential to provide Canadians with clean, renewable electricity.

The project is supported in part by the Government of Canada and showcases the potential of innovative alternative energy technologies. To learn more, visit www.cleancurrent.com.