



Grants for wood and wood fuelled heating

There are various sources of grant aid for supply chain equipment and installation of wood fuelled heating systems as well as research and development projects. Listed below were the grant schemes available in the South East region at time of writing, but for up-to-date information on these and other biomass grants see the biomass energy centre website (www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk)

The financial contribution will depend on the size of the installation, type of technology, and the anticipated environmental benefits. When applying for financial assistance it is important to consider the length and complexity of the application process, the time scales and deadlines for applications.

Supply chain

Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

Details: Funding is available for farmers, growers, foresters, rural micro-businesses and rural communities to support capital investment and training in the production and use of woodfuel as a renewable energy source. Funding is available to farmers, foresters and contractors towards the purchase of woodfuel processing equipment such as firewood processors and chippers to assist in the production of woodfuel, along with associated transport and storage facilities. Funding is available to rural communities towards the cost of installing renewable energy

systems in community facilities. As part of the programmes farm diversification measure farmers can seek funding towards the cost of installing renewable energy systems which will generate additional income to the farm business through the sale of heat or electricity to others through energy supply contracts (ESCO). It is a competitive process and there is no guarantee of funding

Contact details: www.seeda.co.uk/rdpe

Defra Bioenergy Infrastructure Scheme

Details: This scheme provides grants to farmers, foresters and businesses to help develop the bioenergy supply chain. The scheme is operated in rounds. To check whether a round is open for new applications, check the website (details below). Funding from previous rounds has been used to set up producer groups for training and capital items, such as chippers and pelleting machinery.

Contact details: www.defra.gov.uk/farm/crops/industrial/energy/infrastructure.htm

Heating systems

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Details: Funding is available to support the installation of renewable energy technologies in buildings. The scheme is operated in phases and streams, each open to different groups, such as householders, charitable bodies, commercial organisations, schools and the public sector. The eligible woodfuel heating technologies include:

- Automated wood pellet stoves
- Woodfuelled boiler systems (up to 300kW)

Contact details: At time of writing the scheme was separated into two phases for the different types of eligible organisation.

Phase One - applies to homeowners

Contact details: www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Phase Two - applies to the public sector and charitable bodies

Contact details: www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

To check the current status of the low carbon buildings programme see www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme – Biomass Heat

Details: This funding is available to support the installation of biomass-fuelled heat and combined heat and power projects in the industrial, commercial and community sectors, including public and private companies, sole traders, farmers, local authorities, hospitals, universities, schools etc. The scheme is not open to householders or individuals. The grant offers 40% of the difference in cost between installing a biomass system compared to installing the fossil fuel alternative, up to a maximum of £500,000 for each installation. There is no minimum threshold. The scheme is operated in rounds and there are either one or two rounds offered each year.

Contact details: To check the whether a round is open for applications see www.bioenergycapitalgrants.org.uk

Rural development Programme for England (RDPE)

See over

Community Sustainable Energy Programme

Details: Provides funding for community groups to install biomass heating systems up to 45kW. Capital grants are available for up to £50,000 or 50% of the project costs (whichever is lower). The programme also funds 75% of the cost of feasibility studies carried out by registered consultants. Eligible groups include; community groups governed by a written constitution, registered charities and trusts, parish councils, schools or colleges, and faith organisations.

Contact details: www.communitysustainable.org.uk

Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) Scheme

Details: The Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme encourages businesses to invest in low carbon technologies. The scheme was updated in March 2001 to include the Energy Technology Products list, which now includes biomass boilers. Under the Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECA) scheme, you can claim an 'enhanced' 100% capital allowance on qualifying investments in equipment in the first tax year compared to the normal 25% a year on a reducing balance basis.

Contact details: Customer Centre - 0800 085 2005
www.eca.gov.uk

Carbon Trust Interest Free Loans

Details: Available for small and medium sized enterprises with a trading record of more than 12 months. Available for all energy saving investments, including renewable technologies. Eligibility criteria apply. Unsecured interest free loans available for the purchase of renewable energy equipment to be repaid over a four year period.

Contact details: Helpline: 0800 085 2005
www.carbontrust.co.uk/loans

Research & Development

The Carbon Trust – Applied Research

Details: The Carbon Trust's Applied Research Programme is open to UK businesses and research institutions and aims to support the development and commercialisation of technology with the potential to reduce UK carbon dioxide emissions. Up to £500k is available for projects which demonstrate innovation, a clear step forward to commercialisation and value for money. A minimum of 40% match funding is required.

Contact details: www.carbontrust.co.uk/technology/appliedresearch