

Co-ordinated Wood Fuel Initiative 2006- 2008

SOUTH WEST PROTECTED

10 minutes:

Achievements of SWPL Co-ordinated
Wood Fuel Initiative

The why and how

The lessons learnt and

Where next?

Two Year Initiative:

Aim to support development of wood fuel clusters in AONBs/NPAs targeting community, public buildings and large domestic (Farms/Estates)

500 enquiries dealt with

90 site visits

19 wood fuel boiler installations

1.173MW installed capacity

700 tonnes of wood fuel delivered

Facts/Figures:

10 Participating AONBs/NPAs

Cost £350k (SDF contribution £200k)

£150k from SWERDA through Woodland
Renaissance

Centre for Sustainable Energy Managing
Agents

Forestry Commission supported

Why and How 1:

Small, under managed woodland critical assets to landscape, needing a reason for positive management

Policy convergence - AONB/NPA Management Plans and Regional Forestry/Woodland Strategy + later Wood Fuel Strategy

Supports carbon reduction + tackling fuel poverty + Local Economic activity + env management

Forestry Commission experience of supporting 'clusters of installations' to drive demand

Wood fuel for Woodland Management

Why and How 2:

Complex negotiations with individual SDF Panels/ RDA, issues of strategic v local and lack join up of funding time frames

Centre for Sustainable Energy selected as managers of initiative. Helped connect initiative to wider regional/national renewable activity/funds

Initiative had 3 elements: advice line and promotion packs/ Independent advisor site visits/ SDF grant to support installations (up to 500k)

Lessons learnt:

Managing 'Laggards' in the system!!

Best results where AONBs used local knowledge and profile to push wood fuel - more local press, higher response; higher response, more installation options

Advisor visits critical to turning passing interest into practical idea into installations

Achieving installations to tight funding deadlines not easy tendency to go for easy wins

where next.

- Building on CWI by continuing to invest in growing wood fuel clusters in the region's Protected Areas, esp on farms/estates as a exemplar for other areas
- Focusing on resolving blockages in the supply chain, supporting private sector capacity investment pushing community ownership of schemes (i.e wood stores)
- Open events at installations linked to walks in local woodland - making the connection between well managed landscapes & locally sourced, renewable energy