

Why do we use woodfuel?

Woodfuel is the most climate friendly option at Bedgebury, and also one of the cheapest. We have plenty of wood on site, so there are no large transport costs. Trees provide us with a never-ending resource, unlike fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas, which take millions of years to form and are fast running out.

The benefits

- ⊙ Woodfuel can save money. It is often cheaper than fossil fuels and its price is more stable.
- ⊙ It is a carbon lean fuel. Using woodfuel instead of fossil fuels reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere.
- ⊙ Locally produced wood reduces the use of fuel in transport.
- ⊙ It creates new business opportunities, stimulating the rural economy.
- ⊙ Creating demand for woodfuel brings woodlands into sustainable management.
- ⊙ Sensitively managed woodlands generally provide better habitats for a wider range of woodland plants, birds and animals.

Use wood for good

It's not just using woodfuel that can help to combat climate change

- ⊙ Wooden products, like chairs, sheds or spoons take less energy to make than things made from other materials like concrete, bricks or steel.
- ⊙ Be a sustainable shopper. Look for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo when you buy wood and paper products. This shows that the products you buy have come from a well managed woodland.



Fuel for thought How to find out more

Department of Energy and Climate Change

Grants of up to £1500 for domestic woodfuel systems are available from the Low Carbon Buildings household programme: www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Biomass Energy Centre

Visit www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk for useful information including:

- ⊙ A list of grants and support available for installation of woodfuel systems.
- ⊙ A flowchart to find out which type of woodfuel system would be best for your house or business.
- ⊙ A UK map of woodfuel suppliers.

Woodfuel system installers

To find certified woodfuel system installers, visit: www.microgenerationcertification.org

Forestry Commission

www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury
www.forestry.gov.uk/woodfuel
www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechange

Useful information on greener living

www.direct.gov.uk

If you need this publication in large print or in another language please contact **The Diversity Team.**

Tel 0131 314 6575

Email diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.
SGS-FM/COC-000358
© 2009 Forest Stewardship Council A.C.



Forestry Commission
England



South East

Do you want chips with that? Woodfuel, Bedgebury & you



Designed by FC England Design/Wexaldon/10k/Apr 10 © Crown copyright.



www.forestry.gov.uk



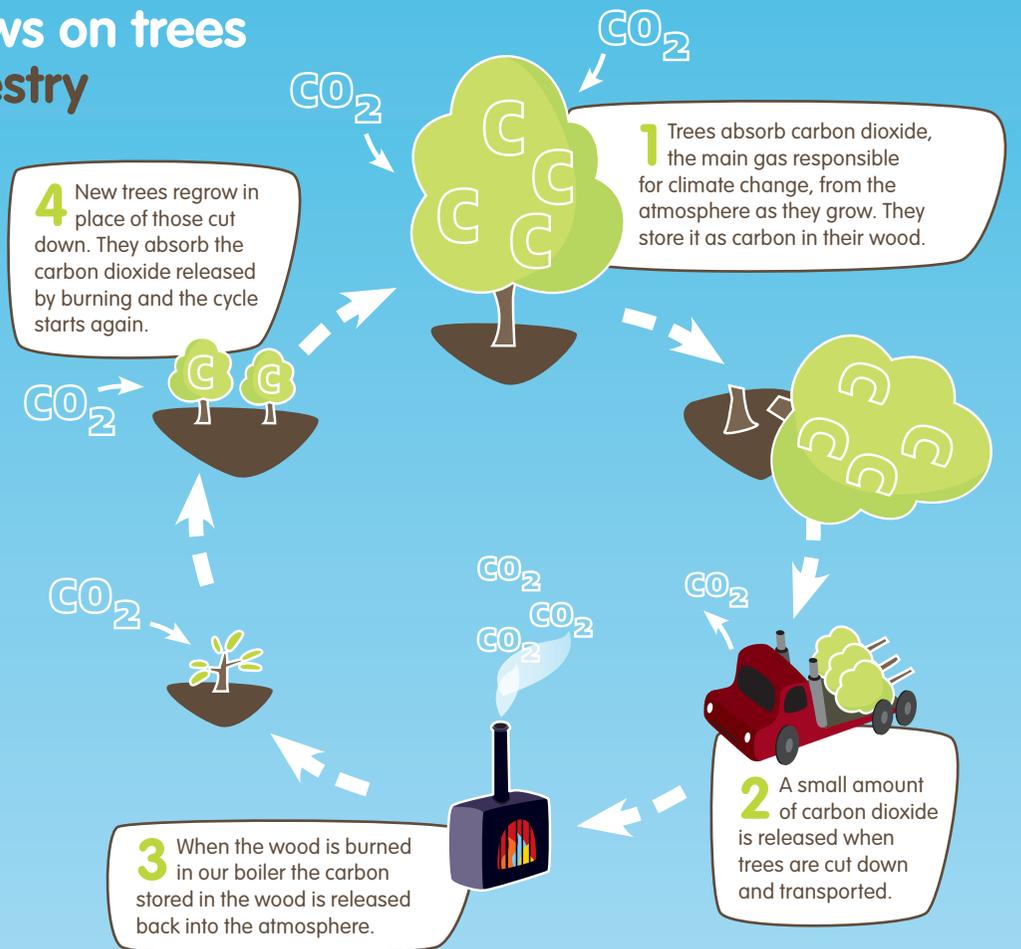
At Bedgebury
our visitor centre
and hot water are
heated using wood
chips made from
our very own trees

Energy that grows on trees Sustainable forestry for woodfuel

What makes wood a fuel for the future?

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is released when wood is burned. But the same amount of CO₂ is absorbed by new trees that replace those cut down.

Woodfuel is 'carbon lean' rather than carbon neutral because a small amount of CO₂ is released when the trees are cut down and transported.



Well-managed woodlands

Bedgebury Forest contains one hundred hectares of sweet chestnut, which is managed by a process called coppicing. The trees are cut every 15 years and then allowed to regrow. The cut wood is left to dry for about a year, and is then chipped and stored on site under cover, ready to use.

Can I use Woodfuel at home?

There are two main ways of using woodfuel to heat a domestic property: a **wood stove** or a **wood boiler**.

Wood stove

- ⊙ Provides heat for a single room
- ⊙ Can be fuelled by logs or pellets
- ⊙ Some models can be fitted with a back boiler to provide water heating
- ⊙ Costs £1000–£3000 for stove and installation

Wood boiler

- ⊙ Connected to central heating and hot water systems
- ⊙ Suitable for pellets, logs and chips
- ⊙ Cost varies depending on fuel choice. A typical 20kW pellet boiler costs around £9000.

Woodfuel boilers are more expensive to buy, but they could save you around £470 a year on heating bills if you currently use an oil boiler. A range of grants are also available. However, they may not be as cheap as a gas boiler. **Interested? Seek advice from a certified installer.**