

Welcome to News for the Woodfuel Sector



This newsletter is for those working in the woodfuel sector and provides an overview of developments within the Forestry Commission and wider Government.

The FORESTRY COMMISSION is working through our network of woodfuel co-ordinators, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Regional Development Agencies and the Biomass Energy Centre to co-ordinate and improve knowledge and support for this important and emerging industry in line with the Woodfuel Strategy¹ for England.

Please get in touch if you have any queries or would like to provide feedback for further issues.

Best Wishes



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Diary Date - Book to Attend FREE Suppliers Meeting

The next date of the Woodfuel Suppliers Network is on **8th October 2009** at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire and will be hosted at the REA Bioenergy Conference (<http://www.r-e-a.net/REA>). Two forums have already been held, one at Ignition 09 in March (Gateshead) and one in September 2008 at the IEA Bioenergy Conference (Warwick University), which more than 40 suppliers attended. To register for this FREE networking event please email Alison.Chaplin@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Round wood Tender - Register Now

On 8th September Forestry Commission England will close the roundwood tender. The sale includes both standing and roadside material and is lotted to suit smaller merchants. Contracts will run for five years. A price for the first year, accompanied by a submission, are required as part of the bid. Most of the Forestry Commission's timber is sold electronically through a system called E-sales. If you would like to purchase timber then you should register on the FORESTRY COMMISSION'S e-timber sales webpage where further guidance is available:

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/hcou-4u4jgu2

¹ www.forestry.gov.uk/england-woodfuel

Nation-wide Directory of Woodfuel Suppliers Launched: Putting Local Woodfuel on the Map

The search for locally produced wood chips and pellets has got easier thanks to a new map-based list of fuel suppliers. An online directory of woodfuel suppliers features companies' details and products and allows users to find local suppliers. The Biomass Energy Centre, working with the Forestry Commission's regional Woodfuel Co-ordinators, has compiled the database of woodfuel suppliers for each region in England. If you are a woodfuel supplier and would like to be included on the list please complete a registration form at www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk

Grants Available for the Biomass Sector

Round 5 of the Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme closed to applications in April. 154 grant offers have since been made and support to the ongoing projects under the scheme will continue until March 2011. DECC will be considering the merits of a further round, perhaps in autumn 2009 but this will be dependent on available budgets. Any announcement will be posted on the DECC website at www.decc.gov.uk

A further round of the Bio-energy Infrastructure Scheme is also being considered on the same basis.

RDPE Regional Support

The Regional Development Agencies, in partnership with the Forestry Commission, provides support for woodland-based businesses, including woodfuel production, under the Rural Development Programme for England 2007 – 2013 (RDPE).

There has been a good range of forestry-linked projects receiving funding in most regions in 2008/09. Highlights have included the start of the £4 million Woodfuel East England project. A list of regional websites is provided below for further details.

Region	Web Link
National RDPE network	www.rdpenetwork.org.uk
South East	www.seeda.co.uk/RDPE/
South West	www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration/eafnd/introduction.shtm
East Midlands	www.emda.org.uk/rdpe
East of England	http://www.eeda.org.uk/rdpe.asp
West Midlands	http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/working-with-us/rdpe/default.aspx
Yorkshire and the Humber	www.yorkshire-forward.cm/improving-places/where-we-live/rural-areas/developing-rural-areas
North East	www.rdpenortheast.co.uk
North West	www.nwda.co.uk/rdpe
Local Action Groups	www.rdpenetwork.org.uk/your-network/local-action-groups

Policy Update - Renewable Energy Strategy (RES)

In spring 2007, the UK agreed to an EU-wide target of 20% renewable energy by 2020. Member States have now signed up to the Renewable Energy Directive, which includes a UK share of 15% of energy from renewables, equivalent to an eight-fold increase in renewable energy consumption from current levels by 2020. Renewable heat and in particular biomass are expected to play a key role (up to 30% of the target) in delivering the UK RES, which was published in July 2009. To reach the UK's 15% renewable energy target, contributions from the heat, power and transport sectors are required with potentially:

- 12% of UK heat generated from renewables, up from negligible levels in 2009; and
- More than 30% of our electricity generated from renewables, up from 5% today.

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx.

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

The UK Government will consult later this year on the introduction of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) to help meet the EU 2020 target. The RHI will be crucially important to the woodfuel sector as it will provide financial assistance to generators of renewable heat and is expected to be in place by April 2011. Although details of the scheme are not yet finalised:

- The incentive is expected to apply to the generation of renewable heat at all levels, whether it is in households, communities or at an industrial scale.
- The RHI will probably be banded, for example, by size or technology.
- The incentive payments will be funded by a levy on suppliers of fossil fuels for heat.

Woodfuel Suppliers Forum – What You Told Us

Forestry Commission Scotland employed RDI to conduct a survey of woodfuel suppliers across Great Britain in order to gauge requirements for and interest in a network for woodfuel suppliers. Over 100 people responded and the overwhelming response was for more support on lobbying, information and advice and training. Several suggestions were made as to how to take this forward and discussions are ongoing with key trade associations. The executive summary of the report will be available from the FORESTRY COMMISSION website at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-woodfuel

Woodfuel Supply Volumes – 2008 Provisional Figures

The Forestry Commission Statistics Department has conducted the first survey to measure volumes of wood used as a renewable fuel. The questionnaire was sent to 321 woodfuel suppliers and arboriculturists, and a total of 142 responses were received, giving a response rate of 44%. Thank you very much to everyone who took the time to respond. This survey was a pilot and the data is provisional and does not

cover firewood. However it is very useful to monitor the growth of this emerging industry. [www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Woodfuel2008.pdf/\\$FILE/Woodfuel2008.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/Woodfuel2008.pdf/$FILE/Woodfuel2008.pdf)

UK Map of Biomass Heat Systems

The FORESTRY COMMISSION is sponsoring the Renewable Energy Association (REA) to conduct the annual survey of biomass heat boilers in the UK. The results are due in November and will be available at www.r-e-a.net/installations. The installed capacity for England from the 2008 survey was 364 MW however, further returns are expected for the 2009 survey.

Are You Supplying Woodfuel to Government Buildings?

The revised timber procurement guidance note is available to download on the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) website (<http://www.proforest.net/cpet/uk-government-timber-procurement-policy/timber-guidance/>).

The FORESTRY COMMISSION is working with Defra and other stakeholders on a protocol for providing evidence of legality and sustainability other than formal certification that would be more appropriate for owners of smaller woodlands. Meanwhile discussions at the European Commission continue into sustainability standards for biomass.

Fuel Quality Standards

CEN 335 2010, the European Committee for Standardisation, has published draft technical specifications for the sampling and testing of solid biomass fuels for parameters, such as moisture content, density and calorific value. Full European Standards will be available in the first half of 2010 and the draft CEN standards are available, free of charge, from the BEC website. Meanwhile HETAS has proposed developing a scheme to certify the fuel specification of biomass.

(www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk/portal/page?_pageid=77,19836&_dad=portal&_sc_hema=PORTAL).

Air Quality Guidance

Biomass and air quality guidance for local authorities and developers are now available at www.environmental-protection.org.uk/biomass.

Biomass Heating Guidance - A Practical Guide

The Carbon Trust has published a guide for potential users of biomass heating equipment including details of the technology and advice on procurement and operation. In addition, there are a range of online resources available to help assess feasibility and procure a system. These are available on the Carbon Trust website at www.carbontrust.co.uk/technology/technologyaccelerator/biomass

Ignition 09

Ignition 09, the first woodfuel exposition, was held in Gateshead in March 09. Forestry Commission and the Biomass Energy Centre had stands at the event. Both exhibitors and visitors considered that Ignition 09 either met or exceeded their

expectations and provided a valuable service. There has been a strong call for further events to be held on an annual or biennial basis.