

## West Midlands Wood-fuel Update – February 2009

### Heartwoods ([www.heartwoods.co.uk](http://www.heartwoods.co.uk))

- A big 'thankyou' to Andy Grundy, Heartwoods Project Officer who will be checking out forestry in Cuba before taking up a role with Midlands Woodfuel Ltd – Andy has been key in advancing woodfuel in WM
- A big 'hello' to Will Rolls, until recently East Midlands Woodfuel Co-ordinator, who has now joined Heartwoods to take forward the work of the Wyre Woodfuel Pathfinder, Grow With Wyre and the Wood Energy Task Group

Will is a graduate in forestry from Bangor University, originally from Malvern and has spent the last 4 years supporting development of woodfuel in the East Midlands including producing a number of leaflets and case studies and a dvd on woodfuel

[http://www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk/portal/page?\\_pageid=74,15256&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk/portal/page?_pageid=74,15256&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL) and can be contacted at:

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- Overall, the number of installations and interest in biomass continues to grow apace, with enquiries to Heartwoods rising and an ever increasing interest in fuel supply
- The Heartwoods website has comprehensive info on woodfuel & suppliers

### Wood fuel Challenge – Wyre Wood fuel pathfinder – Phase 1

- The pathfinder is due to finish by April 09, but has delivered 10 trained Woodfuel Champions, 12 advisory visits and 3 installation feasibility studies, with more to come
- one of Will's key tasks will be to evaluate the pathfinder and feed the lessons back to the wider region
- we had a display at the recent Grow With Wyre event which generated interest and contacts
- we expect to hold a final 'training'/networking event in April to feed back the findings and prepare for Grow With Wyre
- Forest Research has continued the Wyre woodfuel harvesting trials - the production costs for the coppice material in the first trial were very high suggesting coppice for fuel only as a by product of eg biodiversity funded work
- The pathfinder experience is a pilot for the regional RDPE project and Grow With Wyre

### WMids AONBs Wood for Heat project

- Target of 8 feasibility studies for owner supplied wood heat installations in Shropshire Hills and Malvern Hills AONB – 4 studies so far
- These will drive management of woodland and non-woodland trees within these protected areas and extend the pool of woodfuel 'champions' by tying in with the pathfinder

### **RDPE – WM Woodfuel Supply Chain**

- Further delayed due to queries on project structure and financing
- FC hope to pick up accountable body role
- Estimated project start has unfortunately now been put back to summer 09
- In the meantime we hope to maintain momentum by using a small underspend from the Wyre pathfinder to continue to build capacity in the supply chain

### **RDPE – Rural Enterprise Grant**

- Upto 40% grant available for rural businesses includes installing woodfuel boilers and storage ([http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/business/business\\_support/36147.asp](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/business/business_support/36147.asp) or tel Herefordshire Council on 01432 383616 or 01432 260662)
- £5m available, first grant panel Mar 09, max grant £62 500
- working with AWM to develop 'forestry processing' element

### **Wood Energy Task Group**

- Andy Grundy has agreed to continue as chair for the time-being
- Arranging a meeting has been delayed due to delay on RDPE but we hope to arrange a meeting in the next couple of months

### **Warwickshire Producer Group**

- Congratulations to Zoe Bell and colleagues at Godfrey Payton for securing funding from Defra under the recent Bioenergy Infrastructure grant to set up a producer group in Warwickshire – Heartwoods supported the application

### **RE:Think Energy ([www.rethinkenergy.org.uk](http://www.rethinkenergy.org.uk))**

- Funding for businesses for advice, feasibility and renewables installations in the Rural Regeneration Zone
- Delivered by Shropshire CC and MEA – Heartwoods signposting potential applicants on
  
- Re:Think Energy Staffordshire is developing a demonstration woodfuel depot in Staffordshire using wood supplied by FC – held a number of demonstration and training events

### **Bioenergy West Midlands ([www.bioenergywm.co.uk](http://www.bioenergywm.co.uk))**

- Successful regional conference in December 2008
- A range of successful training/networking events in biomass installation, anaerobic digestion, biofuels and a study tour to Germany on AD
- Upcoming events on funding for biomass projects, biomass heating and a study tour to Sweden

### **Regional Biomass Resource Study**

- AWM have commissioned a resource study which the FC have fed into

**Simon West**  
**February 2009**