

West Midlands Wood-fuel Update – March 2010

This will be the last update in this format as the Wood Energy Task Group is being wound up and future updates will occur via Heartwoods and the periodic EWGS updates

Wood Energy Task Group

- After serving the region for 7 years since being set up in 2003 to support delivery of the Regional Wood Energy Strategy (www.growingourfuture.org/woodfuel) and act as a sounding board to the Regional Woodland Forum, we are calling time on this group
- The Heartwoods woodfuel project is up and running and will act as the focus for woodfuel in the region and advise the Forum as required
- Anyone who wishes to receive future updates should contact gaynor.abel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk to be put on the EWGS update distribution
- Thanks for your support over the last 7 years!

Heartwoods woodfuel project (www.heartwoods.co.uk)

- An induction day for Woodfuel Champions (WFCs) was held in February
- WFCs will deliver advice on: woodland management; woodfuel production and supply
- Contact Co-ordinator Rachel Meehan 01952 432769 or rachelmeehan@smallwoods.org.uk
- Support for Woodland Enterprise Grant (capital grants for forestry equipment)
- Training events

RDPE – Rural Enterprise Grant

- Upto 40% grant available for rural businesses includes installing woodfuel boilers and woodfuel storage as part of diversification into non-agricultural activities (http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/business/business_support/36147.asp or tel Herefordshire Council on 01432 383616 or 01432 260662)
- **maximum** grant £62 500
- **Woodland Enterprise Grant** to support investment by woodland owners and rural forestry businesses (with less than 10 full time employees and EU2m turnover) in wood production and supply (upto primary processing, ie sawmilling)
- contact Heartwoods - johnpowell@smallwoods.org.uk or 01952 432769

RDPE – Strategic Investment Grant

- new woodland investment and forestry processing grant – <http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/working-with-us/rdpe/how-do-i-apply/sig-bidding-rounds-and-grants.aspx>
- Upto 40% grant available for rural businesses includes post felling wood processing and supply equipment and forest recreation infrastructure
- **Minimum** grant £62 500
- Contact Jamie Inglis – jamiinglis@advantagewm.co.uk or 0121 380 3500

RDPE - Training

- LandskillsWM (<http://www.lantra.co.uk/businesses/england/west-midlands/landskillswestmidlands/trainingprovider/general-proposals/>) run by LANTRA issues calls for training for land-based businesses – further info from Emma Tregear (project manager) – emma.tregear@lantra.co.uk or 02476 696996
- **Woodworks2** was recently approved and is a 2 year forestry upskilling project that includes technical training and mentoring – further info from Phil Ridley – p.ridley@wnsc.ac.uk or 01939 262154

RE:Think Energy (www.rethinkenergy.org.uk)

- Funding for businesses for advice, feasibility and renewables installations in the Rural Regeneration Zone
- Delivered by Shropshire Council and MEA Marches Energy Agency– contact Kate Millbank (01743 277130 or kate.millbank@mea.org.uk)
- Re:Think Energy Staffordshire offers grants, events and support for renewables - <http://www.rethinkenergy.org.uk/staffordshire>
- RTE Staffs has set up a demonstration woodfuel depot in Staffordshire using wood supplied by FC (<http://www.rethinkenergy.org.uk/staffordshire/main/biomass-capacity-building-programme>)
- Certified woodchip is available – contact James Cartwright (j.cartwright@staffs-wildlife.org.uk)

Upcoming events

- Agents seminar 26 March at Lower Smite Farm, Worcester – contact gaynor.abel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- Bioten conference, 21 – 23 September 2010, Holiday Inn, Birmingham City Centre <http://www.bioten.co.uk> to submit an abstract and book your place.
- Sustainability */live!* 2010 - 20-22 April at the NEC in Birmingham - simply [click here](#), check your contact details and complete the few demographic questions
- EBEC 2010 (European Bioenergy Expo & Conference) October 6th & 7th 2010, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire <http://custom.cvent.com/ACF631CC99014C4BB8F108449B8C6932/pix/aa8dcfed69ac406ea0c736ca8a242098.gif>
- APF International Machinery Demo, Cannock Chase, 23-25 September 2010 <http://www.apfexhibition.co.uk/>

Important consultations

Renewable Heat Incentive – 15 year payments for heat installations – **deadline 26/4/10** - <http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/rhi/rhi.aspx>

Tariff levels for solid biomass are listed below and assume a 15 year lifetime. (these tariff levels are proposed to provide a rate of return of 12% on the additional capital cost of renewables over conventional heat systems.)

Size	p/kWh
< 45 kW	9.0
45 to 500 kW	6.5 - 8.5
> 500 kW	1.0

Any boiler (not stove) installed since July 2009 is eligible to register.

Grants will *probably* need to be repaid to qualify for the RHI, except for domestic properties (subject to de minimus)

Proposed tariff levels will be recalculated to 2011 prices for the start of the RHI in April 2011, taking into account inflation.

Payments will be paid over a number of years; annually for installations below 45 kW and quarterly for those above this level;

At the small and medium scale, the amount of heat generated by the equipment is proposed to be estimated (or “deemed”) when installed in most cases. This will allow the beneficiary of the incentive to receive a set amount based on the deemed output, to encourage low energy consumption and discourage wasting heat.

CHP will be eligible for ROCs and the RHI.

Considering maximum emissions standards for biomass boilers of 30g/GJ for PM and 150g/GJ for NOX.

Ofgem will administer the RHI

RHI payments to be claimed by, and paid to, the owner of the equipment.

In small and medium-sized installations, both installers and equipment to be certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) or equivalent standard, helping to ensure quality assurance and consumer protection.

To see a comparison of fuel prices please visit

www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk/portal/page?_pageid=75.59188&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Simon West
March 2010