

## West Midlands Wood-fuel Update – December 2009

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

- Welcome to the new WM Woodfuel Supply Chain project team:  
Nick Maskery – Project Manager (started Nov 11)  
Xxxx - Project officer (starts Feb 4)  
Kate yyy, Project administrator (starts Jan 4)
- The project will:
  1. Offer advice to woodland owners, managers and businesses on producing and using woodfuel
  2. Produce Woodland Investment Plans to support woodland management and business investment in processing
  3. Commission technical feasibility studies for installing woodfuel boilers
  4. Support applications for capital grants
- Heartwoods have recruited a number of Woodfuel Champions but are looking to recruit more across the region to cover specific gaps
- There have been over 40 phase 1 applications for the Woodland Enterprise Grant (WEG) of which 15 have been referred to Herefordshire Council for phase 2 (full application). Stewart Scull, Heartwoods Development Officer is co-ordinating queries

Nick Maskery	01952 435859
Project Manager	<a href="mailto:nickmaskery@smallwoods.org.uk">nickmaskery@smallwoods.org.uk</a>
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Project Officer	<a href="mailto:xxxx@smallwoods.org.uk">xxxx@smallwoods.org.uk</a>
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Stewart Scull	01952 435858
Development Officer	<a href="mailto:stewartscull@smallwoods.org.uk">stewartscull@smallwoods.org.uk</a>

### 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](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/business/business_support/36147.asp) or tel Herefordshire Council on 01432 383616 or 01432 260662)
- **maximum** grant £62 500
- new **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 - [stewartscull@smallwoods.org.uk](mailto:stewartscull@smallwoods.org.uk) or 01952 435858

### 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 – [jamieinglis@advantagewm.co.uk](mailto:jamieinglis@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](mailto: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 and has recently appointed a project manager – Cindy Joule further info– [L.joule@wnsc.ac.uk](mailto:L.joule@wnsc.ac.uk) or 01939 262154

### **RDPE – Leader**

- 8 Leader projects across the WM, focusing on social and community support
- there is opportunity for forestry in many of them

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

- Funding for businesses for advice, feasibility and renewables installations now across the rural parts of the region
- Delivered by Shropshire Council and Marches Energy Agency– contact Kate Millbank (01743 277130 or [kate.millbank@mea.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:j.cartwright@staffs-wildlife.org.uk))

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

- A range of successful training/networking events in biomass installation, anaerobic digestion, biofuels and a study tour to Sweden on woodfuel
- Details on website, including a register of grants available

### **EU Funding**

- EU Connects are a dedicated service to help you find European funding and partners ([http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Europe/EU\\_Connects/EU\\_Connects.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Europe/EU_Connects/EU_Connects.aspx))
- You will need to complete a simple project proforma with your idea – contact Katherine Shephard - [k.shepherd@wmleadersboard.gov.uk](mailto:k.shepherd@wmleadersboard.gov.uk) or 0121 678 1036

### **Upcoming events**

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**Simon West**  
**Dec 2009**