

Welcome

to Woodfuel Views, our first quarterly Enewsletter which aims to keep everyone involved in the wood fuel industry in the East of England up to date with news, events, advice and opportunities.

We're pleased to announce that the launch of this first edition coincides with the launch our 'new look' website at www.woodfueast.org.uk. The website acts as your online 'market place' putting the region's suppliers and buyers in touch with each other and ensuring visitors and subscribers get access to the latest news and information about the grants, training and events that could benefit their growing business.

Please let us know of anything featured you'd like to see covered in future editions by emailing: edwin.vanek@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Edwin van Ek
Manager
Woodfuel East

Cut the cost of woodland management training



Woodfuel training with Ignite.

Companies, colleges and organisations looking to offer woodland and woodfuel management training in the Eastern region can now claim up to 65% towards delivering those courses for eligible participants - thanks to Woodfuel East.

As part of its programme to boost innovation and enterprise in the East of England's woodland economy, Woodfuel East is keen to support training providers offering seminars, workshops, practical demonstrations or modular courses in woodland management, timber measurement, thinning and coppicing, deer management, harvesting and extraction, storage of round wood, chipping, equipment use, transport, marketing and woodfuel quality standards and assurance.

Edwin Van Ek, Manager, Woodfuel East, said: *"It is one of our top priorities to ensure there is easy access to high quality, well-targeted training. I would urge training providers to get in touch with us to discuss their future training programmes and find out more about the support we can provide."*

The Small Woods Association; Rural Development Initiatives Ltd under the Ignite banner and THF Countryside are three organisations that have successfully accessed grant funding for their trainees.

Course dates can be found in the news section of our website or at www.landskillseast.co.uk - Look for Woodfuel East under the Training Providers tab.

www.landskillseast.co.uk

Give us a Break

- Fire Service highlights role of Woodland Owners in fire prevention



Norfolk's Fire and Rescue Service is calling on forest and woodland owners in the region to do their bit to help reduce the risk of large-scale forest fires. Firewood production could be the answer.



If you would like information on access track infrastructure grants please contact Woodfuel East Business Development Advisors Sid Cooper on 01223 773065 (Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex) or Phil Potter on 01223 773073 (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire).

Here, Richard Herrell, Head of Community Protection, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service explains how.

We have all seen fire and rescue services engaged in large scale fire fighting operations in woods and heath land - and the eastern region is no stranger to this. Difficult access, lack of fire breaks and large accumulations of scrub within our woodlands, present us with some of the biggest challenges to effectively extinguishing these fires.



That's where woodland management comes in - access tracks, thinned and coppiced areas, scrub removal - can all influence the way fire spreads, restricting it to a small scale fire rather than turning it into a national scale fire fighting incident.

There is now a package of financial support available from Woodfuel East which can help woodland owners secure funding to provide gateway access and tracks into their woodland to allow improved access for timber extraction. In our experience, such tracks can create valuable fire breaks and also enable vital access for fire fighting crews.

With Woodfuel East advising a potential yield from processed firewood of up to £200/tonne, it would make sense for woodland owners to take action when and how they can rather than risk seeing their valuable assets literally - go up in smoke.

Richard Herrell

Find out more: Norfolk Fire and Rescue Services is planning to run a half day seminar in partnership with the Forestry Commission to advise on how forestry and woodland owners can help support the fire service. More details in our next issue.

Renewable Heat Incentive

Comercial

The Government has announced that the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) to support commercial micro-generation installations, including biomass, which was due to be open for applications has been delayed until November 2011.

The scheme is administered by Ofgem which has opened an E-Serve Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) enquiries line. The number is 0845 200 2122: open 8:30am until 5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8:30am until 4:30pm on Fridays. You can also email rhi enquiry@ofgem.gov.uk

Visit www.ofgem.gov.uk/e-serve/RHI/Pages/RHI.aspx for more information

Domestic

The RHI for domestic installations is expected to be launched in October 2012. Support for domestic biomass installation completed before the end of the current financial year is £950 under the Renewable Heat Premium Payment Scheme administered by the Energy Saving Trust. Householders can call for information - 0800 512 012 or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/RHPP.

All equipment and installers need to be certified under the Micro-generation Certification Scheme, visit www.mcsaccredited.com for more information.

Forestry Commission Woodfuel WIG

In its aim to increase the supply of wood from under-managed or inaccessible woodlands the Forestry Commission England has nationally launched its **Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG)**.

The Woodfuel WIG supports woodland management through two specific funding elements - the 'Timber' and 'Roads' funds.

In this region, Roads - upgrading or creating roads, tracks and other infrastructure to assist timber extraction for Woodfuel can be funded via Woodfuel East. Support of up to 60%, based on actual

costs, can be provided through funds made available from the Rural Development Programme for England. Contact your Business Development Advisor (For more details See back page).

The Forestry Commission will administer the Timber Fund element and grants are available for the woodland inventory and costs associated with managing harvesting contracts. Support of up to 60% is based on standard costs. Approved management plans must be in place. (A Woodland Planning Grant is also available)

Contact Andrew Hoppit, G&R Manager, for information on the timber fund on 01842 815544 or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wigwoodfuel



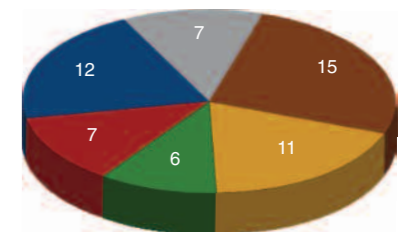
Our Mission:

To significantly increase the use of wood for fuel in the East of England and facilitate the development of a sustainable woodfuel supply chain, from woodland to supplier to user.



How are we doing?

Since the start of the project in Autumn 2008 we have approved 52 grant applications, and 28 of these projects have been completed. The pie chart below shows the numbers by county up to October 2011.



Legend for the pie chart:
Bedfordshire (Green)
Cambridgeshire (Red)
Essex (Blue)
Hertfordshire (Grey)
Norfolk (Brown)
Suffolk (Yellow)

Plus, we've selected 5 providers to deliver advisory services and 36 woodland owners have benefitted so far from these services. We've also approved grant applications for woodland management and woodfuel production training courses- see story on page one.





Helping your woodfuel business grow



**Woodland owners,
managers and
woodfuel
businesses...**

**...need a helping
hand?**

- We offer grants for every stage of the woodfuel supply chain
- Plus woodland management advice at 20% of cost, and up to 65% support for woodfuel/ woodland management courses
- Join our woodfuel marketplace for buyers and sellers
- Add your business to our searchable suppliers list

Woodfuel East is supported under the Rural Development Programme for England by Defra and the EU

**www.woodfueleast.org.uk
Tel: 01223 773072**

New tools

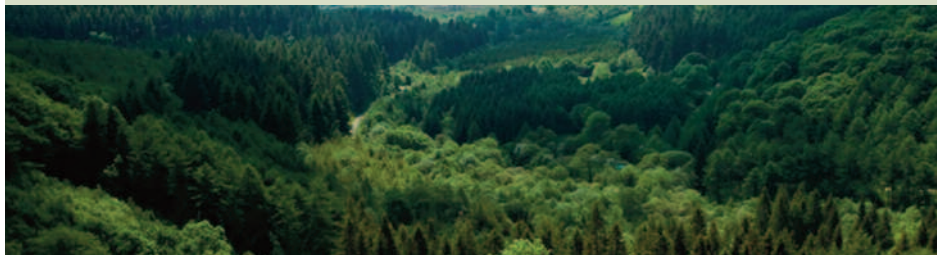
- Biomass Wizard, Feasibility Wizard and RHI Payback Wizards.

Any readers struggling to get to grips with specification, characteristics, performance charts and financial facts and figures related to wood fuel, should check out a new range of tools available to download from the Forestry Commission's Biomass Energy Centre website.

A series of spreadsheets, designed by Gary Battell of Suffolk County Council, bring together current data on a range of subjects including: Boiler sizing; Fuel storage costs; Fuels costs; Heat sale tariffs; Wood densities; Wood chip production costs; regional and county forestry statistics and more.

Commercial boiler installers and heating engineers have reviewed the tools, which represent many years of practical experience in designing, procuring and using woodfuel boilers and woodfuel supply chains.

**To download
visit: www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk**



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