



Marches Wood Energy Network

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WOOD ENERGY UPDATE

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WOOD BOILER GRANTS

The DTI have launched their renewable energy grant scheme, known as 'Clear Skies'. The scheme provides capital grants for wood fuelled boilers (logs and chips) and is open to householders and community based organisations, such as local authorities, charities and environmental trusts.

- Householders can claim up to £1,500.
- Community Organisations can claim up to 50%.

NEW BOILERS INSTALLED

Garnons Estate, Herefordshire

A 120 kW VETO wood chip boiler has been installed at this country estate near Hereford. The system heats the main house and the swimming pool, and largely replaces two oil fired boilers. The estate has an extensive woodland area, and low grade timber from its management provides the fuel.

Chips are stored in a barn, and brought the short distance to the boiler by loading shovel. The fuel hopper, at 10 cu.m., is large for this size of boiler, but enables loading frequency to be reduced to once a week or so.

Garnons Estate continued

The system cost just under £18,000 fully installed, and this included the cost of a new boiler house and its foundation. Through Heartwoods, we were able to offer a 33% grant towards the cost of the system.

The boiler will use about 60 tonnes of fuel, and generate over 200,000 kWh of renewable energy, each year.



NEW BOILERS COMING SOON

Telford & Wrekin Council

The Council have recently placed an order with energy service company Eenergy for the supply of wood fuelled heating for their Oakengates Leisure Centre in Telford. The scheme will involve the replacement of two ageing oil fired boilers with a 325 kW wood chip boiler as the lead boiler, and a new oil boiler to provide supplementary capacity. Wood fuel will provide more than 600,000 kWh, and save 225 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

The wood chip boiler is due for installation later in the autumn.

National Trust, Dudmaston, Shropshire

MWEN has also been working with the National Trust to install a wood chip boiler to heat their estate offices at Dudmaston near Bridgnorth, and we have successfully applied for a 'Clear Skies' grant towards the system. We will top up this grant with our own Lottery SEED programme funds.

The 40 kW boiler will be installed in October to heat the offices and workshops which are in converted farm buildings.

OTHER BOILER SCHEMES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Cleobury Mortimer District Heating

A feasibility funding bid to the Energy Saving Trust, submitted by Marches Wood Energy Network Ltd on behalf of Shropshire County Council, has been approved. Work will begin in August to assess the feasibility of heating Lacon Childe Secondary School, Cleobury Mortimer Primary School, and about 25 housing association houses via a wood chip boiler and district heating network. The scheme would replace heating currently provided by oil and coal.

Bishop's Castle Community College

MWEN, Shropshire County Council and West Mercia Supplies are jointly developing a project to heat buildings at the college with a wood chip boiler. On the college site, there is a community use leisure centre and swimming pool as well as the main school building. A system specification is nearly complete and suppliers will be invited to tender over the summer.

Farms, Estates and Small Businesses

We are working on wood boiler schemes for a number of farms, estates and small businesses, including the Duchy of Cornwall's Herefordshire estate, How Caple Estate near Ross on Wye, Powell and Co Timber Frames near Hereford, Nibblet Joinery near Shrewsbury, and Hazlin Ltd near Ludlow.

WOOD FOR HEAT EVENT, WORCESTER COUNTY HALL

On the 9th May, over 100 people attended a wood energy conference at Worcester County Hall. The event included speakers from Worcester County Council, the Forestry Commission, Marches Wood Energy Network and Econergy. The key note speaker was Lord Whitty, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Farming, Food and Sustainable Energy. The aim of the event was to launch the wood fuelled boiler at County Hall, the West Midlands Wood Energy Strategy (see below) and to review the first year of Marches Wood Energy Network.

WOOD FOR ENERGY – *Energising The West Midlands For The 21st Century*

This strategy document for the development of wood energy has been developed as a joint initiative of Advantage West Midlands, the Forestry Commission, The Countryside Agency and the Government Office West Midlands. It provides an analysis of the current situation, and a strategy and action plan for development.

Copies are available from the Forestry Commission Offices in Worcester 01905 761220.

WOOD FUEL SUPPLY COMPANY

We are now close to establishing a separate wood fuel supply company as a locally owned commercial venture. The business plan is nearing completion and we have begun negotiating with potential suppliers and customers. At a recent meeting, key players from the local forestry, timber processing and agricultural sectors gave their endorsement and backing for this exciting and important development.

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