

# **Woolhope Dome Community Wood-Fuel Project**

## **Information for Landowners Supplying Wood to the Project**

### **Introduction to the Wood-Fuel Project**

The Woolhope Dome Community Wood-Fuel Project will make renewable heat a reality in the Woolhope Dome area centred around Fownhope, South of Hereford. This innovative renewable energy project will use sustainably harvested wood from local woodlands to fuel wood-chip boilers that will heat local business, residential and community premises. The project will be run by a community-owned co-operative Energy Supply Company (ESCO) which will:

- Own and operate woodchip-powered boilers in local premises
- Provide fuel for these boilers from local sustainable sources

The project is a collaboration between two not-for-profit organisations: Fownhope and District Carbon Reduction Action Group (CRAG) and Sharenergy, part of Energy4All, the UK's foremost enabler of community owned renewable energy.

### **Supplying Wood to the Project**

The project is currently looking for a number of landowners within a fifteen mile radius of Woolhope Dome who can supply the project with enough wood to meet the demand of the installed boilers.

### **What the ESCO can offer to Landowners supplying wood to the project**

- The ESCO will generate significant local demand for low-grade/ low value round-wood (e.g. softwood thinnings and low value hardwoods such as poplar, birch, sycamore etc.)
- There is a potential for long term supply contracts for roadside wood (e.g. 4-5 years, index linked for inflation) with a contract price significantly above the current market price.
- The ESCO will be able to be flexible to fit in with existing woodland management, harvesting plans and contractor arrangements where woodlands are currently managed. It aims to use local bulk timber haulage contractors for collection for the majority of supplies.
- The ESCO will be able to assist owners of smaller unmanaged woodlands to bring these back into production to generate income and increase the woodland value. This will improve both the amenity and the biodiversity of the woodlands in line with the aims and policies of a number of organizations such as Natural England and the Woodland Trust.

- The ESCO plans to buy and operate a small forestry trailer (6-8 tonnes capacity) so that small consignments of roundwood can be transported to the processing site economically, facilitating income generation for small producers.

### **Supply Contracts with Landowners**

Landowners can supply locally sourced wood, either on a regular or irregular basis to the project. The ESCO will enter into contracts with local Landowners to ensure the supply of wood to the project. These contracts will include logistical and financial details such as:

- the class of the wood to be supplied
- timetable of supply
- the price of wood
- maximum volume of wood to be collected at the roadside
- volume of wood to be supplied to the project

### **Supplying Wood to the Project**

If you are interested to discover more and potentially supply wood to the ESCO, please contact the Woolhope Dome Community Wood-Fuel Development Manager who will be happy to assist you.

For further information please visit: <http://www.shareenergy.coop/woolhope>

Downloadable information sheets are also available on other aspects of the project.

### **Contact Details:**

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