

Woolhope Dome Community Wood-Fuel Project

Information for Landowners who may host the Wood Chip Processing Operation

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.

Developing a Wood Chip Processing Operation

The project is presently looking for a site to develop a wood-chip processing operation, which would supply the fuel to the local boilers. Having undertaken a detailed feasibility study of the site requirements for a wood-chip processing operation the following guidelines have been identified:

- The site needs to be centrally located, relative to both the deliveries of logs and the dispatch of wood-chip. Ideally, the site will be within or close to the Woolhope Dome area.
- The site needs to include a large open area suitable for timber storage and seasoning – somewhere in the region of one and a half acres.
- The site requires a shed or barn of sufficient volume to store a minimum of 400m³ of wood-chip, which will be typically stacked at 3 to 3.5 meters high.
- A shed for secure machinery storage (two trailers, a tractor and a front end loader) is also required, but this can be combined with the chip store if the facility is large enough.
- Ideally the site needs accommodation to enable wood-chip analysis, quality control and room for an office. Alternatively a site for a portacabin and/or container would be required.

Flexibility

It is important to highlight that it may be difficult to find a site with these exact requirements. The project will need to be flexible. So if you think that you may have a potential site that would need to be adapted or modified in some way, please contact us to assess the suitability of your site.

Potential Opportunities for Landowners

This project will allow a Landowner to diversify their operation and secure income via a long term lease.

Identifying a site for the Wood Chip Processing Operation

If you are interested in further details or have a site in mind, please contact the Woolhope Dome Community Wood-Fuel Development Manager who will be happy to discuss it with you.

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

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

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