



WOOD HEAT UPDATE No. 12. July 2010

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Severn Trent Water goes for Wood Heat

Midlands Wood Fuel is delighted to have won a contract to supply wood chip fuel to Severn Trent Water's new Operations Centre in Coventry. This prestigious new landmark building, due for completion during the autumn of this year, features a variety of low carbon and energy efficiency features, including two wood chip fired 'Herz' boilers which between them will require around 500 tonnes a year.

Ewan Bent, Director of Midlands Wood Fuel, comments: *"I am delighted that Severn Trent Water has committed to the use of wood chip heating for this project, and that it has the confidence in Midlands Wood Fuel to deliver".*

"The new building will be one of the most advanced in terms of its size and energy efficiency in Europe", says Severn Trent's Director of Property, Ted Pearce. *"We've sought to include energy efficient aspects into the building's design from the very first".*

"We were convinced we could harness the developments in biomass technology and link this potential fuel source to available natural resources. MWF have turned this potential into a reality for us."



The addition of this site to our customer base further consolidates our position as the leading supplier to the Warwickshire and Coventry area, where we already supply wood fuel to nine other sites.

Renewable Heat Incentive

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is the proposed mechanism for supporting the generation of heat energy from renewable sources, such as logs, wood pellets and wood chips used to fuel modern boilers.

The consultation process, which included some detail of the workings of the scheme, was opened in February and closed in April this year. In essence, the RHI is a financial incentive to install heat generating low carbon technologies, and is based upon a rebate for every kilowatt hour of energy produced. Anyone with a wood boiler installed since June 2009 will be able to benefit from the scheme. The very generous levels which have been indicated for wood fuelled boilers will transform the economics, and that **will dramatically increase demand for wood boilers and wood fuel**, a very exciting prospect for everyone involved in the industry, and individuals, organisations and businesses interested in moving towards a low carbon economy.

The scheme is due for launch in April next year, and we are now waiting for the Department of Energy and Climate Change to release more detail of the workings of the scheme.

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Taking Stock

At this time of year, when most people are thinking about summer holidays, at Midlands Wood Fuel we're thinking about the coming winter. The summer is a busy time for us - stocking up all of our **eight depots** with timber such that when the cold weather comes, we have plenty of dry timber available for chipping.

This winter we will deliver over 7,000 tonnes of dry high quality chips, and that means having plenty of timber stacked outside drying over the summer. Thanks to our network of high capacity depots, and regular supplies from over 20 timber contractors across the region, we can meet any challenge that the winter might throw at us.



Worcester Depot



Building up stocks at Leamington Spa depot



North Shropshire



Telford



Herefordshire



Telford



Telford

NEW CHIP SUPPLY SITES

Our customer base has grown by about 50% over the last twelve months, and we have supplied wood chip fuel to over 60 sites in and around the West Midlands. Here are some of these new sites:



Several HERZ wood chip boilers installed by **Rural Energy Ltd**, at properties in Worcester, Crewe, Coventry and the Wyre Forest



70 kW Heizomat chip boiler, installed by **Mercia Energy Ltd** at a site near Coventry.



Delivering the commissioning load to a 500 kW boiler at a Manchester Hospital



150 kW KOB chip boiler, installed at a country property in South Shropshire, by **Intelligent Energy Ltd**



Delivery of the commissioning load of blown wood chips to the Froling 320 kW boiler installed by **Econergy Ltd** at Culcheth School, Warrington.

ALSO:

- Sutton Park School, Kidderminster – 100 kW KWB
- Fort Royal School, Worcester – 100 kW KWB
- North Leamington School, Warwickshire, 500 kW Froling

Installed by **Econergy Ltd**

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PELLETS

The bulk supply of wood pellets has been a new venture for us since last autumn, and we are delighted with how it has turned out. We have supplied 25 domestic and commercial customers with 'Balcas Brites' wood pellets, and have several exciting new prospects in the pipeline.



Delivering wood pellets to a **HOVAL** pellet boiler at a Telford Primary school.



We have been pleased to support the customers of **Intelligent Energy Ltd**, a leading installer of 'Windhager' wood pellet boilers in the area.

CONSULTANCY

MWF's consultancy services are in high demand at present, as interest in the use of wood boilers increases but the availability of high quality advice and information from practitioners with real life experience is limited.

This is where MWF fits in. Because we have many years experience of producing wood fuel and supplying to wood fuelled boilers, and have a full and detailed understanding, and practical experience, of boiler technology and design aspects, we are uniquely placed to support end users, and traditional energy and M & E consultants, such that installations are well conceived and properly designed from the start.

The Carbon Trust Biomass Accelerator Programme

MWF, in partnership with Forest Fuels Ltd, are approved consultants to the Carbon Trust's Biomass Heat Accelerator programme for wood fuel supply.

OPEN DAYS

Over the next few months, MWF will be holding open days at some of its depots as a means of demonstrating to existing and prospective customers, and those involved with advice and consultancy, how the *MWF Process* works.

The *MWF Process* has quality and security of supply at its heart. We will explain how we select tree species, when and where we purchase timber, how we plan timber purchasing up to two years ahead, and we will demonstrate how our chipping and delivery equipment and systems are designed for quality. We will also describe some of the issues and problems we have encountered over the years, and how these have informed what we do now and how they stand us in good stead for continuing to be the regions leading wood fuel supplier.

We will be formally inviting customers and other key organisations and companies to these open days within the next few weeks.

CONTACT

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