

## The Northwoods RDPE Bio-energy Support Programme

### What is the Bio-energy Support Programme?

The Bio-energy support programme (bioENERgy) is a two year programme of grant intervention for strengthening and developing the emerging bio-energy sector in the North East region.

The programme offers a range of funding opportunities for eligible businesses that wish to undertake eligible activities in developing regional bio-energy supply chains.

The funding comes through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) which the Regional Development Agencies (RDA), Natural England and the Forestry Commission are tasked with delivering.

### Who are Northwoods?

Northwoods are a partnership based not for profit woodland initiative set up to provide a range of support services for the bio-energy and forestry sectors in the North East region. You can learn more about our activities at [www.northwoods.org.uk](http://www.northwoods.org.uk). Northwoods have been tasked with facilitating the bioENERgy programme on behalf of One North East (the North East RDA).

Before you get started please contact the project facilitator, Jennifer Hewitson at the Northwoods office to discuss your proposal (contact details below). Although this is not compulsory, Jennifer can give you an early indication of eligibility and what level of funding you could expect and sign post you to other business support services in the region.

### How do I know if my idea is eligible?

Generally speaking, if your project involves the development of the virgin biomass supply chain (from forestry, energy crop and tree work) and you are a micro business in the case of forestry contractors or a small or medium sized business for all others, your idea will be eligible.

### What level of grant aid can I get?

Grant aid will vary according to which measure your project is eligible for, the minimum level being 35%.

### What is the Application Process?

Your application may take one of two routes, depending on its size (applications under £10,000 will be referred to Business Link).

1. If your proposal has a total project value of between £10,000 and £20,000 then you will be asked to complete an expression of interest (EOI) form which we use to assess your eligibility. Once this has been determined, you will then be asked to complete an application form. You will be asked to provide supporting documentation which will include evidence of other sources of funding, competitive quotations for items of expenditure relating to the project and other information.
2. If your proposal is over £20,000 total project value, you will be asked to follow a similar process to the smaller applications but with the addition of the completion of a detailed business plan and financial forecasts.

For further information/details/support please contact the project facilitator:

**JENNIFER HEWITSON**

**NORTHWOODS**

**COCKLE PARK**

**T. 01670 790444**

**MORPETH**

**M. 07920102712**

**E. [jennifer.hewitson@northwoods.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.hewitson@northwoods.org.uk)**

**NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 3EB F. 01670 790001**

**<http://www.ruraldevelopment.org.uk/bioenergy>**

