Biomass support projects
The north east of England as a case study

Presentation available at
www.northwoods.org.uk/presentations

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for CALU and Farming Connect
www.calu.bangor.ac.uk
Summary

- Setting the scene
- Evolution of projects
- The next steps
Setting the scene

Evolution of projects

The next steps
Rural Development Initiatives

- Not-for-profit company, 20 staff
- Run many projects across the UK
- Predominantly support for SMEs
- Training, grant support, technical assistance
- Head office, and two Woodland Initiatives

northwoods
The North East’s Woodland Initiative

yorwoods
The north east of England

- Relatively strong forestry sector
- Strong support from RDA and FC
- Use dominated by large biomass
- 3 big users total: 120MW
- Small users total: 8MW
- Current value to region: £60m/yr*
- Value could double by 2015 (excluding large users)

*www.northwoods.org.uk/biomass-publications
Evolution of projects

Setting the scene

Evolution of projects

The next steps
Training (legacy and initial)

- Historical activity of Northwoods
- Various training providers
- Generally high level of paperwork, low margin
- Crucial to the sector
- Helps create contact database (underpins all future projects)
NEWFuels

- Members co-op company limited by guarantee
- Formed with assistance from DEFRA BEIS
- 22 members across NE, serving the whole region
- Essential component to starting biomass network
- Gives confidence about installing boilers
- Very hard to make money out of a producer group!!
Market acceleration project
300 feasibility studies over 3 years
Handholding throughout the process
50 training places
80% grant for technical design work
Ignition09 event (www.ignition09.co.uk)
bioeNERgy

- RDPE grant scheme for woodfuel production
- £1.5m available in 15 months
- 40-70% intervention possible
- Full business support included
- Highly successful even in the downturn (especially so?)
BEn

- European project aimed at strengthening biomass supply chain
- Biomass **energy register** – web based GIS tool for mapping biomass resources and potential load
- **Regional network** for representatives of biomass sector
- Biomass *master plan* to aid strategic approach
- Guidebooks, training for planners and decision-makers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Publications</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>regional forest strategy</td>
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<td>NEWHeat</td>
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<td>bioeNErgy</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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The next steps

- Setting the scene
- Evolution of projects

The next steps
Targets

- Continued support for biomass installations
- Continued support for woodfuel production and quality
- Continue training programmes

Remembering that the biomass sector in the NE will be worth at least £76m/annum by 2015!

- Try to crack the tough nut – privately held woodland.....
  .....but how?
Log support project (pilot)

- Training, technical assistance, study tour
- Marketing support, quality improvement/education
- Improved awareness for general public
- Access to privately-held woodland
- Web page detailing information on suppliers
Log support – training for suppliers

- Best practice processing/supply of fuel logs
- Study tour to Elmia Wood 09
- Marketing a firewood business
- Managing woodlands for wood fuel

Outcomes -
- Improved efficiency for businesses
- Adoption of best practice
- Bigger market
- Bigger supply (long-term)
- Improved market 'pull' for woodland owners
Log support – network for suppliers

- Joint marketing round a common standard and logo
- Centralised database of suppliers
- Online map of suppliers (HETAS approved)
- Simplified access to other support structures (grants etc)

Outcomes -
- Increased confidence of suppliers
- Increased confidence of consumer
- More tangible and high-profile market for private woodland owners
Log support – education for users

- Information provided to stove installers
- Information provided to public online and through leaflets about good quality log fuel
- Information provided to public and suppliers about softwoods

Outcomes -
- Better supply of relevant information to sector and public
- Increased availability of fuel source
- Increased market 'pull' for woodland owners
Log support – direct contact with owners

- Mailshot to database informing of expanding market opportunity
- Link woodland owners, agents and timber merchants with log suppliers
- One-on-one business support for woodland owners
- Web information on advantages of good woodland management

Outcomes -
- Increased awareness of opportunities
- Increased links between relevant partners
- Improved market 'push' for woodland owners
- Increased managed activity in the private woodland sector
David Clubb
Northwoods Project Director

www.newheat.org.uk
www.northwoods.org.uk
www.ruraldevelopment.org.uk

Presentation available on Northwoods website