



NORTHERN
WOODHEAT

Northern WoodHeat

Developing Small & Medium Scale Woodfuel Supply Chains

There are many opportunities to utilise the forest resource in the NPP area for renewable energy at a local level, maximising rural development benefits to communities, but the participating countries in the Northern WoodHeat project are at varying stages of woodfuel development. Despite the differences, there are underlying similarities. Common to all countries is an interesting development at the smaller scale, to ensure that local communities have the opportunity to add value to their local forest resource for supply of woodfuel to local markets.

Objectives

Through working together the project partners aim to tackle some of the following issues:

Economics: is woodfuel a technically & economically viable source of energy at the small/medium scale?

Rural Development: can this resource be exploited locally and with what benefits?

Implementation: what further support/action will be required to stimulate an active woodfuel sector?

Building Expertise: how to disseminate technical and economic information to encourage further market development?

EES Sustainability: how to ensure that wood fuel resources are managed to promote ecological, economic and social sustainability (EES)?



Project activities

The project will be carried out on a transnational basis with local projects in each participating country. In Scotland, supply chains will be set up at 4 sites, examining the economics of all aspects of the supply chain and incorporating methods and technologies from Finland. One of these sites will also set up a chopped firewood supply chain. The site based studies and associated work will be published as 10 different reports. In addition there will be at least 10 demonstration days to further disseminate results. Educational and training material will be developed in conjunction with Finnish institutions.

A carefully co-ordinated PR strategy will culminate in a final conference to publicise project outcomes. In Iceland, a feasibility study will be undertaken and a pilot scheme developed using information from Scotland and Finland. Training and educational programmes will be developed involving 120 farmers who take part in the Heradsskogar afforestation programme. The existing small chopped firewood market will be enhanced, and a log supply chain will be developed based on Scottish and Finnish experience. In Finland, existing techniques will be disseminated through the development of international training and advisory packages. In addition, roundwood drying data, harvesting data and fuel testing data from Scotland and Iceland will be used to improve roundwood drying techniques and inform possible adaptations to harvesting machinery and boilers.

Expected results

1. To help forestry play a part in a greater share of energy markets through determining economically viable small/medium scale fuel harvesting and production methods.
2. To optimise the impacts of wood fuel development on the timber, landscape and rural development values of northern peripheral forests.
3. To provide a range of environmental benefits linked to the improvement in forest structure and associated biodiversity values of wood fuel producing forests and through the development of a carbon neutral energy source.
4. To significantly increase the rate of wood fuel development internationally through the creation of expertise in technology transfer.

Partners

Forest Enterprise - Scotland
Highland Council - Scotland
Abriachan Forest Trust - Scotland
Dunnet Forestry Trust - Scotland
Highland Wood Energy - Scotland
Woodtherm Fuel - Scotland
DWP (Tomintoul) - Scotland
Forestry Commission - Scotland
Inverness College - Scotland
Finnish Forest Research Institute (Joensuu Research Centre) - Finland
North-Carelia Polytechnic (NCP), North-Karelia - Finland
JOSEK Oy, North-Karelia - Finland
Landbunadarhaskolinn a Hvanneyri - Iceland
Heradsskogar, South East Iceland - Iceland
Skograekt rikisins, South East Iceland - Iceland

Project website

<http://www.northernwoodheat.org>

Measure

1.2

Total Budget

1 880 554

NPP Award

1 005 035

Project Period

01/10/2004 - 30/09/2007

Countries Involved

Scotland, Finland, Iceland

Lead Partner

Organisation

Highland Birchwoods
+ 44 1463 811606

Project leader

Cliff beck
cliff@highlandbirchwoods.co.uk