

# Woodfuel in & around The National Forest



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## What is Woodfuel?

At the simplest level, woodfuel is logs burned on open fires or in log burners in houses.

However, wood chips are an increasingly popular type of woodfuel used for larger buildings including country houses, hotels, offices, swimming pools, schools, in fact almost any building.

Using logs or woodchips will help support the growth and management of woodlands in The National Forest.

## Why Woodfuel?

With gas and oil prices on the increase, switching to woodfuel can cut your heating bills. Advances in wood combustion technology have meant that woodfuel boilers are reliable, efficient, clean burning with low emissions and convenient to use.

Woodfuel is a renewable, sustainable and carbon neutral alternative to fossil fuels which is being adopted by many businesses, organisations and local authorities as a way of reducing their carbon footprint. Woodfuel is supplied by local companies and helps to strengthen the local economy.

## Supplies from the Forest

There are now almost 11 million trees, young and old, growing in The National Forest. Older woodlands benefit from management and replanting. In addition to supplying timber, the poorer quality wood can be used for logs or to produce woodchip. Younger woodlands require thinning at 10-30 years – these thinnings provide an ideal source of material for woodchip.

We estimate that over the next 20 years or so up to 7,000 tonnes per year of woodfuel could be provided from the Forest. This means that logs and woodchips are a plentiful local and sustainable source of energy.

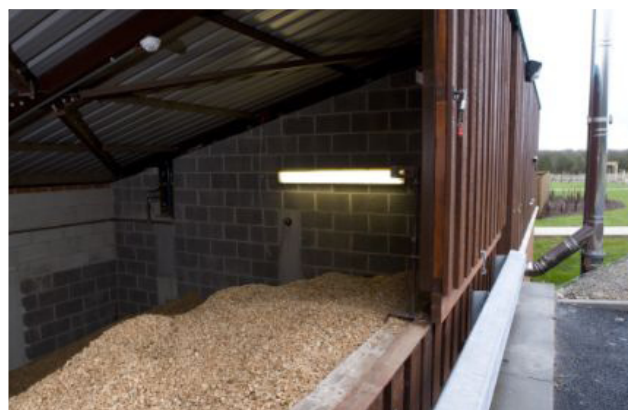
## Success - The National Forest Youth Hostel



The National Forest Youth Hostel at Moira



Boiler house



Boiler house woodchip store

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## Woodfuel Boilers

Modern woodfuel burners and boilers are commonplace in many European countries. Their sizes range from small to domestic log burners to large commercial heat and power devices. Modern wood energy boilers, when operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, have low emissions that meet the European standard EN303-5 for heating appliances and are smokeless.



National Forest Youth Hostel 95kW boiler

## Installation

Woodchip boilers are designed to replace existing oil and gas boilers and can be coupled directly to an existing heating system. They can be installed as standalone units providing the full heat demand for a site or installed as a base load boiler with gas, oil or even another woodchip boiler in support to provide peak demand. Log boilers are usually coupled to accumulator tanks, which store the heat for use as required. The use of accumulator tanks helps reduce stoking and optimises combustion.

## The Storage of Woodfuel

Fuel silos and bunkers need special consideration and can often be located out of sight, underground or built into adjacent buildings often without major reconstruction.

## Grants

Several bodies offer grants for feasibility studies and capital purchases. Grants include:

- Regional Development Agencies under the Rural Development Programme
  - Capital Allowances under taxation rules
  - Carbon Trust Interest Free Loans
  - Low Carbon Buildings Programme\*
  - Bio-capital Grant scheme – Round 6\*
  - Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) from 2011\*
- \* Each from Dept of Energy & Climate Change

The National Forest Company can also help.

## Your Next Step

Get in touch with us if you are:

- A woodland owner wanting to develop a woodfuel resource
- A local business interested in producing woodfuel or installing boilers
- A private or public sector property owner considering heating with woodfuel

## Conclusion – The benefits of woodfuel

- Low emissions and high performance
- Boilers and burners are easy to install
- Woodfuel comes from local sources
- A cushion against fossil fuel price rises
- A carbon neutral fuel

**Advice:** Mercia/Encraft is working on behalf of the National Forest Company.

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