

Developing Woodfuel in the Cairngorms National Park

Results of Workshop held on 16 October 2008 at Alvie House

Aim of workshop;

To bring together representatives of public agencies and the demand and supply side of the woodfuel industry to;

1. agree on the scope of a new demonstration project to be developed as part of a bigger EU funded project called Clim-ATIC
2. agree the composition of a working group for that
3. identify any other actions that could or should be taken to help develop the Woodfuel supply chain and industry in the National Park

Format for day

The programme for the day took the form of;

- an introduction to the Clim-ATIC project and tasks for the day,
- two invited speakers to set the scene
- two follow on workshops
- Plenary round up session and agreement of way forward.

Speakers were

1. Peiter Koffman – Senior Forestry Consultant – Danish Forestry Extension
“Developing the Woodfuel Supply Chain - Experience in Europe”
2. Iain Cowe, Biomass Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland
“Developing the Woodfuel Supply Chain - Experience in Scotland”

The Two workshops were;

Workshop 1

- Identifying the main gaps and opportunities in the supply chain
- What the industry can do?
- What the public sector can do?

Workshop 2

- Which gaps best fit the objectives of Clim-ATIC and should be developed?
- Where else can we source resources
- Who should be involved in the working group?
- What other actions need to take place and by whom?

Results

Workshop 1

Gaps and Weaknesses

- 'Chicken and egg' situation with supply and demand – not synchronised and need more cohesion and coordination
- Different scales of demand and this not developed
- Not enough easily accessed independent advice for users/consumers
- Reluctance to operate collaboratively
- Lack of coordinated approach to harvesting and marketing
- Market failures – lack of awareness public and industry (design and installation)
- Lack of user confidence in supply base and technology
- Lack of entrepreneurs – and withdrawal of SBSS reduced confidence and motivation
- No independent advice for users /consumers
- Wood is 'Cinderella' of renewables – no Heat ROCs
- Bureaucracy makes it difficult to get grants
- Lack of knowledge (and confidence) in fuel quality

Opportunities

- Increase supply side – and enhance sale of 'energy' and not wood
- Develop more Promotion, Education and Training programmes
 1. Heating Trade – plumbers and installers
 2. Planning and building regulation officers
 3. Public – end users
 4. Public bodies and agencies
- Develop and promote demonstrations of success
 1. Good business examples e.g. clusters
 2. Supply chain resilience
 3. Cooperative working
- Assess and audit potential for larger users – e.g. public buildings, estates, etc.
- Education for policy makers – regulation and incentives
- CNPA publicly backing woodfuel
- Promote exemplars that instil confidence
- Develop new projects on demand side with 2 streams;
 1. Owners occupiers – logs and pellets
 2. Larger institutions – wood chips
- Market use of fire logs to public

What the public sector can do

- Lobby to make accreditation easier
- Help local businesses get accreditation
- Lobby for Heat ROCs
- Plan new projects in public building – produce 'hit list' of quick wins
- Planning presumption in favour of biomass
- Integrating grants – e.g SRDP and SBSS

- Determine resource base – information gap here

What the private sector can do

- Use networking opportunities to develop contacts and communication
- Encourage young people into the industry – apprentice schemes?

Workshop 2

Ideas for Clim-ATIC project

- User information days
- Demonstration sites
- Help for National Park businesses to become accredited installers
- Wood fuel producers association as a promotion and marketing tool
- Promotion Programme targeted at key audiences
- Trails of containerised 'plug and play' boiler
- National Park 'Energy' show – to showcase information and businesses
- 'Energy Trail' – sites that interested people can visit – with technical information available
- Demonstration projects for logs, pellets and wood chips
- Develop a baseline to measure improvement
- Look at geographic clusters using 'porous park boundary' approach
- Concentrate on commercial/larger installations for larger CO2 'hit'
- Promote good practice and advice for harvesting of dry and dead material
- target directly to small and medium enterprises and domestic markets
- produce short informative flyer (or series) supported by more detailed technical document
- CNPA employ biomass advice/development officer
- Develop quality standard for logs and increase supply side – opportunity for farm woodlands?
- Develop independent Advice and Training Network;
 - To promote woodfuel in the National Park
 - To make links within the NP and the wider region
 - To connect and draw resources together
 - Provide a 'one stop shop' for information and advice fall all users/installers
 - Provide advice on grants

Where else can we sources resources

- CNPA
- Climate Challenge Fund (?)
- Enterprise companies
- Business sponsorship

Who should be involved in the working group?

- CNPA
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Enterprise companies
- Highland Birchwoods
- Local Authorities
- CONFOR
- Macaulay

What other actions need to take place and by whom?

- Setting a wider context in an 'development plan' for woodfuel in the National Park to include resource analysis, biodiversity, incentives and barriers and a costed action plan - CNPA to lead with other agencies

Key messages from workshop

- Developing woodfuel in Cairngorms National Park will contribute towards NP aims and National Park Plan Priorities
- Clim-ATIC is good opportunity to take support development of woodfuel in the National Park
- This can be part of a wider support for woodfuel 'championed' by CNPA
- Recognise and build existing networks and projects
- Use technology and knowledge that is already there
- Education and training are vital
- An 'energy show' could be successful
- Produce a series of information 'flyers' supported by a technical document
- **And finally...Promotion, Promotion, Promotion!**

What will happen next?

Agreed Action	Next steps
1. Theme for the Clim-ATIC project will be Promotion, Training and Awareness	Develop project plan
2. Working Group for Clim-ATIC to be formed	Invite members
3. Produce Woodfuel Development Plan for the National Park	CNPA to commission

Participants at Workshop

<u>Name</u>	<u>Business</u>
James Farquhar	Confor
Michael Hone	Glentromie Estate
Andrew Nicol	DWP Harvesting
Julian Barnes	DWP Harvesting
Alastair MacLennan	CNPA Board
Gerry Cross	Macro forest Ltd
David Braiden	Forestry Commission
Steve Watson	Community Energy Scotland
Alister Laing	SAC
Diana Feliciano	MacAuley Institute
Fiona Chalmers	CNPA
Chris Bremner	CNPA
Bob Dunsmore	FCS
Jamie Williamson	Alvie Estate
Stuart Blackhall	Rothiemurchus Estate
Ian Cowe	FCS
Cliff Beck	Highland Birchwoods
Ian Ross	Highland Woodfuel Group
Richard de Silva	Green Flame Technology Ltd
Phil McMahon	Green Flame Technology Ltd
Duncan Bryden	CNPA Board
Pieter Koffman	Senior Consultant Wood for Energy Danish Forestry Extension
May East	Cifal Findhorn
Kate Christie	CNPA