

## IEA Bioenergy Task 31

### UNITED KINGDOM COUNTRY REPORT 2007

#### 1. Overview – status, hot issues, new developments:

The UK now has fully devolved country authorities; this in turn has had a significant influence on woodfuel strategy developments. The UK has recently published its UK Biomass Strategy. Timber prices have seen a significant upturn, with prices rising in excess of 30% for some products.

#### 2. Policy and legislation – recent changes

EU policy continues to evolve and influence UK industry developments. In particular Road Fuel Transport Obligation, Renewable Orders Certification, UK emissions targets and grants, such as Capital and Bio-capital/infrastructure grants. The need to adopt and promote the newly developed CEN 335 Standards throughout the UK is seen as paramount.

#### 3. Statistics – energy supply and demand, renewable energy, bioenergy, biomass resources:

'As reported last year the UK the use of forest products and sawmill products from timber processing as potential sources of renewable energy continues to increase. The scale of projects ranges from individual domestic situations through community heating and industrial applications to co-firing. Although the use of biomass as a replacement for coal in existing coal-fired stations is by far the greatest consumer of biomass, the vast majority of co-fired biomass is bought on the global market and imported.

Biomass projects, such as the E.On plant at Lockerbie which will consume approximately 500,000 green tonnes of sawmill co-products & biomass, and the Sembcorp Plant at Middlesbrough which will consume approximately 300,000 green tonnes show the emerging strength of this sector. During the late summer of 2007 SembCorp completed building and trial burns were underway. The construction work on a dedicated biomass generating station in SW Scotland is ongoing - with an installed capacity of 40MW and an annual consumption of approximately 500,000 green tonnes biomass, much of it sourced from local conifer forests and sawmill co-products.

The site works for UPM Caledonian Paper is underway for a c 50MW CHP plant due to be completed mid 2009. Consumption will be approximately 370,000 green tonnes of biomass of which 45% will be forest brash and very small dimension roundwood 10% RCF and 45% low quality sawmill co-products.

The UPM Shotton Paper 50MW plant is now fully operational after a 12 month start up and fine tuning period. Consumption is 250,000 tonnes made up of 20% forest arisings, 40% sawmill low value co-products and 40% arboricultural arisings and other woody biomass.

There are 400 heat-only installations for medium/small industrial/commercial applications across GB with an installed capacity of 135MW (2006 data) and an estimated usage of 84 thousand oven dry tonnes. In 2007, the most recent Public Opinion Survey of 4000 representative people across Britain showed that the number of domestic wood-using applications has stayed around 8-9% households. More detailed surveys, albeit of a small number of individuals, indicated that this represents a usage of about 3 million oven dry tonnes annually.'

#### 4. Technical information – especially new developments, trials

To support the continuing development of the nascent UK industry current woodfuel research is focusing particularly on:

- Drying trials, both roundwood and chip using conventional and acoustic test methods.
- Residue harvesting, stump harvesting and energy crop developments (both from existing forests and newly established SRC/SRF crops).
- Small-scale harvesting and hardwood harvesting.

#### 5. Industry – key stakeholders

The industry's key stakeholders are: Government, public sector groups such as the Forestry Commission, Councils and private sector groups such as the Renewable Energy Association, Private forestry companies, producer groups, community groups, industry installers (engineers and plumbers) and the public.

#### 6. Events – workshops, conferences, past and future

There are numerous events planned for 2008 but of particular note are the:

IEA Task 31, 38 and 40 joint UK conference, September 2008

The Association of Professional Foresters International Forest Machinery Exhibition September 2008.

#### 7. Reports and publications

References to policy documents

<http://artemis/scripts/webc.exe/cairstl/start>

Defra's website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/> with a search for 'biomass' or 'bioenergy'

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) <http://www.berr.gov.uk/>

For books try the British Library <http://www.bl.uk/>

### **Forest Research Technical Development - WOODFUEL REPORTS 2006/07 include:**

<b>IPINs</b>	
09/06	Small Roundwood – Pilot Drying Trials
15/06	Woodfuel Trial – Rivox, Ae Forest District
16/06	Timber Miles Interim Report
17/06	Presentation of brash for baling from clearfell harvesting
19/06	Large chipper review/trials
25/06	Woodfuel drying and storage
07/07	Rumster forest Northern Wood Heat woodfuel cutting trial
<b>INTERNAL REPORTS</b>	
	Task 31 Sweden report

	Alice Holt Research Station woodfuel report
<b>EXTERNAL &amp; CONTRACT REPORTS</b>	
01/06	Wood supply chain management
02/06	Evaluation of proposed biomass heating IGER, North Wyke
	Welbeck Estate, Woodfuel advisory visit

7. Contacts for further information – people and websites

UKs Biomass Energy Centre - [www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk](http://www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk). Includes numerous links to other key UK sites.