



C/o Green Wood Centre, Station Rd, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7DR
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Email: nickmaskery@smallwoods.org.uk Web: www.heartwoods.co.uk

Heartwoods Woodfuel Supply Chain Project - fuel for thought!

Call for anyone interested in delivering 'Woodfuel Champion' advisory services in the West Midlands. **We are looking for delivery partners who can assist project development in the following key areas:**

- Woodland Management and Woodfuel Development training support;
- Business Development (skills development);
- Woodfuel technical support (fuel quality/boiler technology).

Background

Heartwoods have secured £827k in grant under the West Midlands - Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) over the next 4 years. It will operate across the West Midlands and promote sustainable business growth and support the creation of new jobs in land based Small and Medium Businesses through support in the following:

- Woodfuel harvesting
- Building capacity in the woodfuel supply chain
- Investing in co-operative activity
- Skills development including business and practical based
- Supporting capital investment proposals for grants including the Woodlands Enterprise Grant and Strategic Investment grants supported by Advantage West Midlands.

We are looking to work in partnership with individuals and businesses who wish to become 'Woodfuel Champions' giving subsidised advice/training on:

- what are the key issues and benefits of using wood
- bringing woodlands into management (including woodland management plans)
- producing and supplying wood for fuel and other products
- setting up and managing a woodfuel enterprise or co-operative
- assessing energy use and scoping potential woodfuel boiler installations
- providing woodfuel advisory services (fuel processing and quality)
- grant facilitation, grants available and where to go/how to apply

We propose to set up and maintain a panel of 'Woodfuel Champions' across the region (envisaged three-four per county) and with a range of skills to help us respond to demand. Induction training will be required (see draft woodfuel training leaflet PDF) but will be subsidised.

Woodfuel Champions will need to have experience and a keen understanding of the land-based industries and be able to represent 'Heartwoods' in a professional manner.

If you think you have the skills required, please contact Nick Maskery, Project Manager at Heartwoods on **01952 435859** or via e-mail to nickmaskery@smallwoods.org.uk to register your interest or complete and return the attached application form (page 3) by the 21 December 2009.

Project Aim and Background

To recruit and train a group of predominantly private sector forest managers, contractors, woodfuel merchants and consultants to act as champions for the woodfuel supply chain – at the core of this will be a programme of training but it will be supplemented by networking events, exposure to best practice information gained through visits to regional woodfuel installations and suppliers, updating on available funding and business support for woodfuel projects.

It is anticipated that ‘Woodfuel Champions’ who obtain successful tenders will undertake an envisaged minimum of 20 contracts in the particular county where they are assigned. These contracts will be supported through 80-90% assistance with beneficiaries / customers responsible for the remaining match contribution. The maximum support to individual business beneficiaries (e.g. farm/woodland owners) will be equivalent to €1500 (euro) in total.

Training

A training programme (anticipated up to 5 days) will be delivered and this will be subsidised by the Heartwoods project. It is anticipated that this training will take place in January / February 2010 and will provide detailed information on the Heartwoods project and will involve the following subject topics.

1. The resource in theory

- Biomass sources
- Assessing woodfuel resources
- Harvesting and extraction
- Fuel Quality and recognised industry standards
- Processing (log/chip) / seasoning / storage

2. The resource in practice -

- Practical Woodland Management planning
- Reporting and presentation

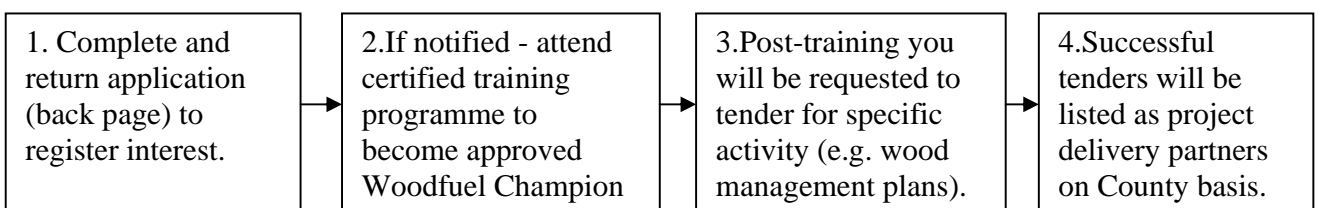
3. Policy and the market -

- The Woodfuel market in the west midlands
- End use technology available
- Considerations for woodfuel heating appliances
- Design principles / types of boiler and efficiencies
 - Calculating heat requirements
 - Wood Fuel types – log/pellet/chip
 - Organising fuel supply

4. Wood Boiler Installations -

- Improving customers knowledge and understanding
- Practical assessments of existing installations

Application Process to be a ‘Woodfuel Champion’





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Heartwoods Woodfuel Champion Enquiry Application

Please complete this form and return to above address by the 21 December

| | |
|--|----------|
| Business name: | |
| Proprietor: | |
| Micro-enterprise: | Yes / No |
| Woodland holder: | Yes / No |
| Are you currently on the Heartwoods HW directory: | Yes / No |
| If no – wish to be added? | |
| Approximate cost (£ per day) for business support | |

Type of business (Please tick to indicate all that apply)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Woodland / Forestry consultant | |
| 2. Forestry / woodland contractor | |
| 3. Coppice worker | |
| 5. Heating Engineer | |
| 6. Tool & machinery Specialist | |
| 7. Woodcraft Specialist | |
| 8. Woodfuel Specialist | |
| 9. Business Support Specialist | |
| 10. Other (please specify) | |

Area of operation

| | | | | | |
|--|----------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| WM counties (please circle) | Shrops | Staffs | H'ford | Worcs | Warks |
| Rural based business | Yes / No | | | | |
| Other (specify area of work & main activity) | | | | | |

Signed

Date

Heartwoods Reference:
(for internal use)