



# Kent Downs AONB Woodfuel Pathfinder

Kent Economic Board:  
Low Carbon Energy  
Production - Business Growth  
Consultation

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011



# Biomass in the Low Carbon Economy

- Kent Economic Board (May 2011)
  - Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council
  - acknowledged biomass as a significant opportunity for Kent economy
  - offshore wind / energy from waste already well developed
  - renewable heat (at all scales) ready to be exploited
- Biomass/woodfuel is a business opportunity
  - surveying, feasibility, consultancy
  - design, installation, maintenance
  - fuel and heat supply (ESCo, community heat networks)
- Kent Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
  - woodland cover at 21% (8% nationally), >70% farmed
  - agriculture – space and process heat needed (e.g. grain drying, absorption chillers)
  - many large estates, rural schools and rural communities
  - in some districts 1/3 of properties off-gas (reliant on oil/LPG)
- Biomass energy from locally harvested woodfuel highly feasible
  - 15,000 hectares / 190,000 m<sup>3</sup> pa sustainable yield
  - potential to support ~90MWth installed capacity
  - equivalent to ~180 500kW boilers / ~£54m capital investment

# Kent Downs AONB Woodfuel Pathfinder

- Our woodfuel programme will focus on these opportunities:
  - provides a temporary support mechanism
  - to help establish robust woodfuel industry in Kent
  - via enhanced uptake of biomass energy
- What are we offering?
- Specialists who can provide:
  - technical advice on woodfuel
  - guidance on finance and grants
  - advice on the Renewable Heat Incentive
  - one to One support from experienced foresters
  - energy use assessments (heat demand, boiler sizing)
  - access to our network of biomass / woodfuel consultants (including financial support to fast-track biomass feasibility assessments)
- In summary
  - we will engage with any component of the woodfuel supply chain and facilitate introductions
  - from woodland manager...to heat user
  - to bring supply and demand together
  - and ensure that suitable woodland is sustainably managed

# Kent Downs AONB Woodfuel Pathfinder

- Funded by EU MULTIFOR INTERREG project
- Match funded by Forestry Commission
- Coordinated by Kent Downs AONB Unit
  
- What does success look like?
  - enhanced uptake of biomass energy
  - with woodfuel supplied locally by robust woodland sector
  - sensitive woodland management
  - that supports biodiversity and landscape aims
  - maximise local jobs (and opportunities for farm diversification)
  
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