



DATGANIAD I'R GWASG/PRESS RELEASE

Sharing knowledge – and making wood fuel happen in Wales

The latest developments in the wood fuel sector across Europe will be showcased at an international conference organised by Robinwood, the groundbreaking Forestry Commission Wales Interreg III C project, which aims to show how best forestry practices can help provide rural jobs and new income.

Wood fuel has a critical part to play in how the woodlands and forests of Wales can be managed to provide a real boost to the rural infrastructure as well as providing cheaper, environment friendly energy. And the Robinwood International Wood Energy Week - 23-27 January 2006 - in Brandenburg – being hosted by Robinwood's German partners – brings together leading expert speakers, including Mike Pitcher of WEBS and Dr Rebecca Heaton, ADAS, from across Europe and Scandinavia to look at all aspects of the industry.

“This is a unique opportunity for anyone linked with the wood fuel sector in Wales to find out about the most up-to-date methods and systems being used by some of the world-leaders in this industry,” said Robinwood, Wales project manager Paul Finch.

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2/ Sharing knowledge – and making wood fuel happen in Wales

“Timber growers looking for new markets, energy providers after the latest technical information and planners looking at alternatives to costly oil and gas heating systems will find all the answers in Brandenburg,” said Paul.

Robinwood partners from Italy, Spain, Poland, Slovakia and Wales will be joining the German promoters for the event, which will provide detailed breakdowns of reliability, investment costs, harvesting and conversion technologies as well as an overview on how proven examples using local resources can make energy supply cheaper.

Delegates can opt to join the conference itself at Eberswalde, near Berlin, on January 26 and 27, or join a series of lectures, seminars and site visits as well during the first half of the week. Further details are available from Paul Finch, Robinwood, Wales project manager, Tel: 08456 040845 – e-mail paul.finch@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

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Editor's notes: Robinwood has given Wales its first opportunity to be a partner in one of the European Interreg 111c RFO (Regional Framework Operation) projects aimed at bringing partner countries together, fostering cross border work between academics, private business and the public sector. The Welsh part of the three and a half year project is worth 1 million Euros to Wales. The Welsh strand of the work pulls together information on how forests in at least three other countries are looked after now, and how best methods can be used and developed across all six regions.

A full programme for the Robinwood International Wood Energy Week follows:

Switch on to wood fuel – here's how!

Many European regions could make better use of their natural bio-energy resources from forestry or agriculture by switching from fossil fuels to nature's ever young fuel – wood, using latest technologies in harvesting and conversion.

Getting information on reliability, investment costs, harvesting and conversion technologies can be difficult, creating barriers to making use of your region's own wealth.

But many proven examples show that using local resources makes energy supply cheaper - and adds value to the local economy.

Brandenburg has wide experience in changing from fossil fuels to energy wood from local resources, and farmers have found confidence in starting plantations of short rotation coppices. Together with other European specialists we would like to spread this know-how.

Eberswalde is one of the oldest forestry schools in the world. It has also turned its energy supply to wood chips from local forestry production and hosts the centre for wood-energy of CE Bra – Centre for Energy Technology Brandenburg and the E.I.C.H.E.e.V.. These three contribute to implement the energy policy of the state of Brandenburg that follows bioenergy as one of its key objectives.

Find out more:

- **PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS** – on socio-economic constraints, energy wood from the forest and from the field will demonstrate up to date know-how on wood energy production in Europe
- **WORKSHOPS** – which will offer unique opportunities to transfer knowledge and generate new contacts with colleagues from all over Europe.
- **SITE VISITS** – to see how Brandenburg and Poland are making wood fuel production a reality on forestry sites across the regions.
- **LECTURES** – that will provide essential information from some of the leading experts in the wood energy business from across Europe.

Preliminary programme

MONDAY, JANUARY 23 - TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Lectures and seminars organised by Eberswalde Polytechnic **for Students** from partner regions and all interested parties

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

EXCURSIONS in Brandenburg and Poland to demonstrate wood fuel production and energy Conversion

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

PRESENTATIONS from international speakers on regional development on the basis of bio energy production and use:

- Economic development and job creation on the basis of bio energy opportunities and experiences.
- Wood energy between natural and climate protection.
- Favourable legal constraints to foster bio energy development.
- Different financing schemes to initiate projects between forests and radiator.
- Best practice in marketing wood energy.

GET TOGETHER INTERNATIONAL

EVENING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

SEMINARS + WORKSHOPS on forestry and agriculture related bio energy production:

- Actual status of wood fuel production and use in southern and northern European regions, how to activate forest owners, administrations and entrepreneurs.
- Successful technologies and logistic chains as well as machinery for energy wood production in the forest.
- How to improve performance of production.
- Experiences with agro forestry systems (technologies, logistic chains, machines).
- Suitable species for short rotation forestry.
- Best practice in marketing wood energy.

Your ticket to RW

Accommodation is limited please book early to avoid disappointment.

You may sign up for all, or just specific days, of **RW International Wood Energy Week**.

There is no charge for attendance. A final detailed programme will be available in

December. For more details on **RW International Wood Energy Week**, or if you would like to contribute with presentations or information or book a place on this important four day conference, please contact:

RW – Brandenburg

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