



Woodfuel Factsheet 10

Where next... and how to stay safe and legal

Advice and funding

Support on all types of woodfuel systems is available from a range of sources.

The Low Carbon Cairngorms website www.lowcarboncairngorms.org is packed with a wealth of advice on using logs, chips and pellets. It features a directory of woodfuel businesses in and around the Park and loads of useful links you can follow to find more information.

Forestry Commission Scotland can provide the information you need to use woodfuel, from heating your home to developing a large-scale energy plant. Its officers can help businesses source funding from the Scotland Rural Development Programme for biomass schemes.

The Energy Savings Trust offers free home energy checks to determine how you could save money by making your home more energy efficient.

Highland Birchwoods is a partnership organisation which has a lot of experience in developing woodfuel in the Highlands and runs various support and research schemes,

Communities can get advice on renewing biomass systems in public buildings from Community Energy Scotland. This independent charity also administers CARES – the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme. Grants of up to £150k are available under this Scottish Government scheme.

Scottish Woodfuel News is an initiative run by Reforesting Scotland. Its main focus is log-fuel woodstoves and it includes

comprehensive listings of woodfuel suppliers and woodfuel schemes in Scotland, as well as stove manufacturers.

Certain rural businesses may be eligible for funding from the Scotland Rural Development Programme. The European LEADER fund may also be able to support renewable technologies.

Householders installing some types of domestic wood fuel systems should be able to benefit from payments under the UK Government's proposed Renewable Heat Incentive scheme. The scheme, announced by the former UK Government in February 2010, will enable householders to earn money by generating heat from wood fired boilers. A tariff of 9p per kilowatt hour for boilers under 45 kilowatts has been proposed to encourage householders and communities to make the switch to renewable heat sources. The tariff will only be payable when both equipment and installers are registered under the The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), an independent scheme which aims to ensure standards are consistent.

At the time of going to press (Autumn 2010) consultation on the Renewable Heat Incentive had closed and its final shape had yet to be determined by the incoming government.

Keeping your new system safe and legal

So... you've decided to go for wood fuel. Now's the time to find out about the red tape that needs to be negotiated to make sure your new system is safe and up to standard.

Find out more

This series of factsheets explores how households, businesses and communities are pioneering the use of woodfuel. They have been produced as part of the Cairngorms Woodfuel Action Plan and a partnership project run by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Clim-ATIC EU programme.



The first step is to check whether you need planning permission. Although the Cairngorms National Park Authority deals with planning decisions relevant to the aims of the Park, the first port of call for all applications is your local authority. In the case of a new wood fuel installation, the chances are you will not need planning permission.

The rules were changed in 2009 to permit wood burning boilers, stoves and combined heat and power systems to be installed without going through the process unless:

- the flue is more than one metre above the roof height
- is installed on the principal elevation and visible from a road in buildings in Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites.
- is in an Air Quality Management area (commonly known as a smokeless zone)

If in doubt check with your planning department.

Building Regulations

Building regulations set standards for the design and construction of buildings. Their main purpose is to ensure the health and safety of people in or around those buildings. Energy efficiency measures are also incorporated in the building regulations.

Guidance on wood burning appliances

Most installation work relating to solid fuel, including firewood, wood chips and pellets and the associated systems for heating, controls, hot water etc are subject to building regulations. Notify the local authority of your plans - the building control officers can be contacted through the planning offices listed.

An existing chimney or a new flue or chimney installation must be given a visual inspection to check that it is in good order, clear of obstructions and is of a suitable size and type for the appliance you plan to install.

It may be necessary to sweep the flue - which should always be done anyway before fitting a stove or lining a chimney - and also, if necessary, to do a smoke test to check for gas tightness.

General rules that apply include:

- ensuring sufficient air supply
- making sure there is good ventilation, that flues and chimneys are appropriate for the purpose
- making sure that existing flues are suitable for reuse and that appliances can be safely accessed for maintenance and repair.

A suitably sized hearth made of non-combustible material is also required – detailed guidance on the sizing and type of materials permissible is available from the building regulations, building control officers and approved solid fuel installers.

Finding out more

The Scottish Government is responsible for building standards in Scotland.

Scottish Government Building Standards Division
08457 741 741
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Building/Building-standards

Technical handbooks

New technical handbooks - one domestic and one non-domestic - are now available from the website or by contacting the Building Standards Division.

These provide guidance on achieving the standards set in the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and incorporate the most recent changes, adopted in October 2010.

Contacts

Forestry Commission Scotland
01349 860 919
www.usewoodfuel.co.uk

Scotland Rural Development Programme
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP

Local Authority Planning Departments

Aberdeenshire
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning
01569 768300

Angus
www.angus.gov.uk/planning
01307 473175

Highland
www.highland.gov.uk/planning
01540 661 700

Perth and Kinross
www.pkc.gov.uk
01738 475300

See www.lowcarbonairngorms.org/woodfuel/building-regulations.asp for detailed information on the relevant sections.

If you are managing the installation yourself your local authority building control officers will be able to advise.

If you are employing a contractor make sure that all the necessary standards are being met.

HETAS is the official body recognised by the UK government to approve solid fuel domestic heating appliances, fuels and services. Its work in approving products covers boilers, cookers, open fires and stoves and room-heaters.

To find a HETAS registered installer in your area see www.hetas.co.uk or phone 0845 634 5626

