

WhS (D28) Report on End of Project (Key Stakeholders) Workshop

Introduction: The end of project 'key stakeholders' workshop was organised for the 9th and 10th March 2011 to follow on from the final project partners meeting of 8th March. The aim was to attract as wide a cross section of delegates from across partners as possible to share experience gained and lessons learnt from the WhS project.

Promotion: We chose to hold the workshop in the New Forest near Southampton in southern England to provide a venue which would help attract delegates from across Europe. The location of the New Forest Verderers Court was used for the event as it provided an iconic setting and was cost effective (as FC manage it).

A simple flyer was distributed widely and the event was actively promoted by all partners:

Car Parking in Lyndhurst

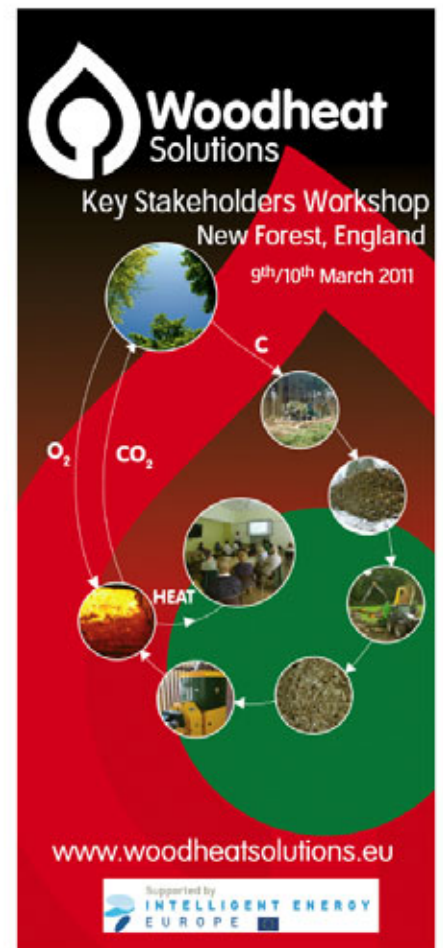
Queen's House is at the top of the High Street in Lyndhurst, on a one-way system

The car park at Queen's House is fairly limited so please use the Public Car Park, LONG STAY area (cost for day £5 – less than 5 min walk)
OR

Go towards Southampton on A35 and use the first forest car park on the right, turn right onto road towards Beaulieu, then immediately left (no cost – less than 10 min walk)




Project Partners

Woodheat Solutions
Key Stakeholders Workshop
New Forest, England
9th/10th March 2011

www.woodheatsolutions.eu

Supported by
INTELLIGENT ENERGY
EUROPE 

Woodheat Solutions Key Stakeholders Workshop New Forest, England

Date 9th/10th March 2011
Venue Forestry Commission
Queen's House
Lyndhurst
Hampshire
SO43 7NH

Project Background

Over the last 30 months Woodheat Solutions project partners have been working to boost the bio-energy market in the UK, Slovenia and Croatia, drawing on the exemplar experience from Finland and Austria. In particular we have sought to help:

- the agricultural and forestry sectors appreciate and take advantage of the opportunities the growing market for sustainable heat provides;
- increase the understanding of heat users about the wood resources available; and
- highlight how quality standards can help build a robust woodheat industry.

Workshop aims

This workshop is targeted at key stakeholders including:

- heat buyers
- heat engineers
- agriculture and forestry managers
- representatives from woodfuel networks
- other IEE sponsored woodfuel projects

We intend to outline what we have achieved, the difficulties encountered, the lessons learnt and explore how this experience can be utilised to help the woodheat industry develop further.

If you have any particular issues you would like us to cover, please let us know and we will endeavour to add them to our programme.

Agenda Day 1 Wednesday 9th March

10.00	Registration and Coffee
10.30	Project Background and objectives/approach <i>Welcome, brief outline of position in Slovenia/Croatia/UK, need for the project, aims and deliverables</i> Partner - FC
11.30	Best Practice and observations <i>Detail how it has been done successfully in Austria/Finland and highlight the issues the 'experts' found in Slovenia/Croatia/UK</i> All partners
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Standards <i>Background to standards in Finland/Austria, new CEN standards and turning these into reality in Slovenia/Croatia/UK</i> Partners - VTT/IK/TVE
15.15	Coffee
15.30	Implementation Slovenia Croatia UK <i>What it has led to in Slovenia/Croatia/UK, case studies, current and projected uptake Difficulties faced, what have the partners learnt</i> Partners: - SFI - CFES - FC
17.00	Close
17.00-18.00	Time for networking, coffee available

For information/history of the New Forest
www.newforest.hampshire.org.uk

Agenda Day 2 Thursday 10th March

9.00	Coffee
9.30	How woodheat can be cost effective <i>Detail how the project is helping make the supply chain of "wood to warmth" more cost effective, why it has been successful (co-operatives, contracts, wood stores, ESCOs etc.), stress quality, efficient delivery, payback, sell heat not wood etc.</i> All partners
11.00	Coffee
11.15	Grants - What is available? <i>In particular the Rural Development Programme (RDP) but also national/international initiatives and barriers which might be overcome by better RDP support (Post 2013?)</i> Partners - SFI/CFES/FC
12.00	Training CD / Trainer Pack <i>Detail about one of the main deliverables, how it will help into the future, where it is available etc.</i> Partner - TVE
12.30	Lunch
13.00	What next? <i>Main lessons learned, how it has influenced the way forward, future joint working</i> Partners - SFI/CFES/FC
13.30	Field trip - New installation/woodfuel supplier/ unmanaged and managed woodlands/ ancient trees

Booking Arrangements

As places are limited, booking is essential.
To reserve your place please contact:

Jeanette Hawkins
Tel: 01420 23337
Email: jeanette.hawkins@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Despite this, while interest from the UK was robust, interest from continental European countries was low.

Croatian contribution: Due to the change of status of our Croatian partner (Disbanding of the Croatian Forest Extension service and Croatian Ministry taking over as Croatian lead with the WhS project) and the delays in gaining confirmation of approval of this change our Croatian colleagues were unable to send representatives to the this workshop. We had hoped to have their attendance and when this was not possible asked that they send presentations which others might present on their behalf. Regrettably they felt unable to commit any time to the project at that time. Hence we had no Croatian contribution, which was very sad as they have clearly gained lots of experience from the project.

Delegates: 36 delegates (excluding WhS project partners) attended the workshop, most attending both days, regrettably a small number of people who had booked did not attend on the day.



Delegates receiving presentations in the Verderers Court, New Forest



Some of the delegates on the field visit to Hinton Estate seeing woodfuel production and distribution from formerly undermanaged estate woods.

Of particular interest was the launch of the UK's renewable Heat Incentive which occurred late in the morning of day 2 of the workshop. This was of great interest to all delegates and so we were able to obtain the published details and run through the potential implications with delegates.

Presentations: all partners (except Croatia) gave excellent presentations highlighting how woodfuel is developing and lessons learnt (or given). There was robust interplay between presenters and delegates and all seemed to find the event well worthwhile.

Feedback from delegates:

Good feedback from the delegates with particular reference to the supply aspects of woodfuel. It was felt that the industry needed to offer confidence to the buyers by offering long term supply contracts, perhaps with the FC offering annual contracts for wood supply and being more pro-active in promoting woodland management. The pellet market is felt to be more commercial and could be what 'kick starts' the industry, as pellets and logs seem more popular. It was also felt that if suppliers sold heat not wood that could help develop the supply chain. The big difficulty seems to be convincing large woodland owners that woods should be brought under management with the supply of woodfuel being part of the equation, as a lot of woodlands are bought for a lifestyle.

On the buyer side it was felt the main initiatives to encourage growth would be –

- The UK Governments Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI);
- Lower initial installation costs – provided by a stronger market and competition;
- However, costs sometimes override carbon policies (i.e. people stick with what they know – gas and oil).

Although Finland and Austria have a history of using wood for fuel they still have an 'education' plan for new woodland owners. – perhaps CLA/NFU/FC could do this? They have achieved acceptance of district heating systems and this has helped establish the supply chain especially in terms of selling heat not wood. Also, standards have helped to ensure a quality product and give confidence to the market, it is hoped the new CEN standards will do the same.

Conclusions:

- Good calibre of delegates who are actively promoting woodheat, though we would have liked to see some from 'abroad', we suspect time and travel costs may work against this. In future it may be better to hold such events at or near international airports (and with Heathrow planning to heat one of the terminals with wood this might be ideal, though Stansted Airport is already heated with wood).
- The final materials which have been prepared by the WhS project, the lessons learnt and the delegates engaged are excellent.
- We have established considerable momentum which we will build on then move woodheat forward in Slovenia, England and Croatia.

Matthew Woodcock

Forestry Commission SE England and Woodheat Solutions Co-ordinator

March 2011