

## **Wood fuel – find out how the Europeans are making it work !**

Many European regions, including Wales, could make better use of their natural bio-energy resources from forestry or agriculture by switching from fossil fuels to biomass, and by using the latest technologies in harvesting and conversion.

However, obtaining information on investment costs, harvesting and conversion technologies can be difficult.

For this reason, an exciting new project, Robinwood, has begun which is promoting new ways of utilising forests and woodlands. The project has been named Robinwood as a deliberate play on the name of the UK folk hero Robin Hood, best known for taking from the rich and giving to the poor.

CALU biomass advisor Dr Rebecca Heaton explained: “By developing new techniques and improving existing methods of utilising the woodlands it should be possible to create new jobs and wealth in Wales, at the same time as aiding the adoption of biomass as an energy source”..

Paul Finch, Robinwood Project Manager added, “Many of our farm woodlands remain unmanaged as the market price for this timber has been too low. The growing interest in wood as fuel, stimulated by oil and electricity cost increases, is beginning to create new demand which should help increase the price. “

A highlight of the project will be the International Robinwood Wood fuel week, being held in Brandenburg, Germany, on January 23 - 27.

The meeting is aimed at a wide audience, from students, engineers and foresters to experts in regional development and politicians. CALU's Dr Rebecca Heaton, will be attending the conference and presenting a paper on The Biomass Industry in Wales.

"I'm looking forward to hearing how farmers in the rest of Europe are making wood fuel work for them, and seeing how the whole fuel supply chain fits together, from growing, through to harvesting and delivery of fuel," she said.

For more details on Robin Wood International Wood Energy Week, or to book a place at this important conference, please contact:

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