The value of wood as a sustainable resource, either as timber or as woodfuel, is growing

The greatest opportunities are to:
- use your own wood to supply your own heat needs;
- add value to your lower grade wood by selling woodfuel locally, or
- consider selling the end product – heat.

**Renewable heat incentive**

The Renewable heat incentive is a Government scheme that provides financial support to non-domestic renewable heat generators. Eligible technologies include biomass (woodfuel) boilers.

This ensures that the use of renewable heat is more commercially attractive than fossil fuels by providing a continuous income stream to the boiler owner over a twenty year period.

This support will help develop the use of woodfuel, in appropriate locations, as a common source of heating – just as it is in many other European countries.

**Who to contact**

Our regional Forestry Commission Offices:

- North East England .......... 01669 621591
- North West England .......... 01524 565800
- Yorkshire & the Humber .... 01904 382300
- East Midlands ............... 01623 821474
- West Midlands ............... 01905 532200
- East England ................. 01842 815544
- South East England ......... 01420 23337
- South West England ........ 01626 890666

**Useful links**

For information on woodfuel:
- www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wigwoodfuel
- www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk
- www.woodheatsolutions.eu

This grant scheme is supported with European Union and Defra funding.

If you need this publication in large print or in another language please contact The Diversity Team. **Tel:** 0131 314 6575 **Email:** diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

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What can be funded?

- **Access infrastructure**
  - Roads, tracks and other infrastructure to assist the extraction of timber from woodland.
  - Support will be based on three quotes, and grant paid on the production of receipted invoices.

- **Preparation for harvesting**
  - Woodland inventory and costs associated with managing harvesting contracts.
  - Support for this work is based on standard costs.

For further details see: [www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wigwoodfuel](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs-wigwoodfuel)

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**Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG)**

The grant fund is £10 million, which has been funded by Defra as part of the Rural Development Programme for England. It is available until 2013.

This new grant supports the sustainable production of woodfuel and other timber products. Work needs to meet the UK Forest Standard. The basis for support is economic rather than environmental or social.

The grant offers 60% towards the cost of work.

**Eligibility**

In order to be eligible for this grant, the woodland must have an approved management plan in place, so we recommend owners apply for Woodland Planning Grant if one isn’t in place already.

**Management Plan**

The Woodland Management Plan must provide evidence of under-management or of a barrier to sustainable harvesting. The level of grant support will be assessed against the proposed volume of extracted timber. This must also be included in the plan.

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**English Woodland Grant Scheme**

The England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) provides a range of other grant support for landowners wanting to create new woodland or to carry out sustainable woodland management, particularly where it protects and enhances the woodland’s environmental or social value.

Grants for harvesting machinery and supply chain activity may be available on a regional basis. For more information contact your local Forestry Commission office. Details are on the back of this leaflet.