

***Gearing up for our busiest season yet***

There probably aren't many people that look forward to the onset of winter as much as us at Midlands Wood Fuel.

This coming winter will be our busiest yet. We will supply over 8,500 tonnes of wood **chips**, and nearly 1,000 tonnes of **pellets** to at least 135 customers, from domestic houses up to large public buildings and district heating schemes.

The wood chip will come from our network of **11 depots** which cover all of the West Midlands, Cheshire, Merseyside, Liverpool and Lancashire as well as north Gloucestershire. The timber at these depots only comes from the local area, generally within 30 miles.



*Gloucestershire depot*



*Worcester depot*



*Herefordshire depot*



*Cheshire depot*



*Warwickshire depot*

## 'Grow with Wyre' Project

Midlands wood Fuel has teamed up with the Forestry Commission to operate a wood chip depot within the Wyre Forest, on the Shropshire – Worcestershire border. This purpose built facility was designed and implemented by the Forestry Commission, with funding from the Grow with Wyre project, and following a tendering process, have let it to MWF for five years.

To date, over 500 tonnes of timber from the immediate vicinity has been delivered into the depot.



Christening the new Wyre depot with the MWF chipper

## Midlands Wood Fuel invests in timber transport.....

In June, we took delivery of a timber trailer and crane, supplied by local firm Forestry Transport Maintenance.

Whilst we continue to support the local timber haulage sector, we felt that this infrastructure investment was necessary in order to cope with ever increasing volumes.

The total cost of £54,000 was supported by a contribution from the Woodland Enterprise Grant, administered by Herefordshire Council.



## .....and in customer service

In September, we upgraded the older of our wood chip tankers with an upgraded and **much quieter** air blower. Noise has been one of the criticisms of early wood chip blower vehicles. This £8,500 upgrade is purely to enhance the service we provide to our customers.



MWF has long been a pioneer of blown wood chip delivery. Although it costs a bit more than simple tipped delivery, even over the lifetime of the boiler installation, the reduced capital expense of surface hoppers compared to excavated bunkers or hook bins makes it attractive for sites up to about 300 kW.

## Green Expo 2011

MWF will have a stand at **Green Expo 2011**, a free-to-attend event run by Marches Environmental Technology Network (MetNet) to promote renewable energy and energy saving in the area.

Come and see us there on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, at Six Ways Stadium, Worcester, WR3 8ZE between 12.30 and 7 pm. See [www.yarrington.co.uk/greenexpo](http://www.yarrington.co.uk/greenexpo) for details

## Quality Rules

We have always taken pride in the quality of our wood chip fuel, with robust procedures and careful housekeeping. Over the last year we have been documenting and formalising these procedures such that they can be externally.

We now take and keep a sample of **every load** we deliver. Every sample is tested for moisture content and given a visual inspection. This way, any customer queries can be dealt with quickly, and we can keep a daily track of the fuel at each depot.

We are currently in the process of becoming externally accredited to the BS EN standards.



## Recent new customers

### CHIPS

- Secondary School, St Helens, Merseyside
- Secondary School, Cheshire
- Secondary School, Sandwell
- Primary School, Sandwell
- Secondary School, Herefordshire
- Offices, Banbury
- Country House, Banbury
- Agricultural College, Gloucestershire

### PELLETS

- Offices, Manchester
- Sports Centre, Telford
- School, Worcestershire
- Various domestic houses in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire

## News from the timber stack *by Production Manager, Andy Grundy*

With each heating season we improve our stock management allowing us greater control over the consistency of our product. Stacking timber in the best drying locations and tracking the progress of its drying allows us to process the solid wood into wood fuel chips at the optimum time.

Our number of suppliers continues to grow, with over 50 having sold timber to MWF. The industry is enjoying some of the best market conditions many can remember. This has led an increasing number of woodland owners to manage their woods and bring timber to market, with some previously uneconomic thinning work being undertaken. This material, which would have previously not made it out of the forest, is now replacing oil and gas in keeping the region warm.

For those looking at managing their woods, the FC has a new grant available (grab it while you can!), specifically to fund working access in the forest. See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-8fwc98>

Woodland owners can also benefit from advice and support offered by **Heartwoods**, the West Midlands regional woodland initiative [www.heartwoods.co.uk](http://www.heartwoods.co.uk).



**Confor**  
Promoting forestry and wood

