



Community  
Woodlands  
Association

## **COMMUNITY WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION**

Company Limited by Guarantee No 275097 Scottish Charity No SC038374

Registered Office: Old Poltalloch, Kilmartin, Argyll PA31 8RQ

[www.communitywoods.org](http://www.communitywoods.org)

# **ENTERPRISING WOODS HIGHLAND**

## **Wood Products and Skills Proposal**

**Diane Oliver, Social Enterprise Development Officer**  
**CWA Employability Services Project**  
**August 2012**



# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>AIMS</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>STRUCTURE AND OPERATION</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
5.1	Social
5.2	Environmental
5.3	Economic
<b>6</b>	<b>MARKET RESEARCH</b>
6.1	Strategic Fit
6.2	Existing Resources
6.3	Existing Organisations
<b>7</b>	<b>COST ANALYSIS</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
8.1	Other Relevant Reports List

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The CWA Employability Services project supports around 10 Highland based CWA members with regards to developing social enterprise and employability opportunities. There are 3 key themes emerging from the project which will be developed through the Enterprising Woods project. They are

- Growing Woodlands
- Health in Woods
- Wood Products and Skills.

This proposal concentrates on developing and supporting timber products as a value added product from community woodlands.

Community woodlands often attract and/or create skilled wood craft workers. Many of the groups have skilled trainers and/or volunteers in carpentry, green woodwork, and timber construction. In 2010, Highland and Islands Enterprise commissioned a survey of community woodland groups producing timber products which revealed that whilst few groups were producing commercially, many expressed interest in doing so.

In March 2011, the CWA Employability Services Project (in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise) ran a seminar to look at production, the requirements of the retail sector, how other social enterprises have approached production and how to decide what to produce and how to then develop the product. This was followed up with a 3 day practical workshop held in August 2011 at Milton Community Woodland Trust. The workshop covered: -

- Resource asset management ie health check of people, place and product
- How to relate your woodland and its management plan to your product supply chain
- Branding, markets and quality control

## **2. AIMS**

The Enterprising Woods Highland – Timber Products and Skills proposal aims to:

- Encourage and support community woodland groups to develop wood products
- Run training in practical skills eg greenwood working, coppicing and machine operation
- Investigate development of accredited training
- Support groups to develop business plans and proposals
- Increase knowledge levels and create a peer support network

## **3. PROJECT DETAILS**

The project will facilitate and support the development of a range of timber related products across community woodlands. This will be done via the following activities:-

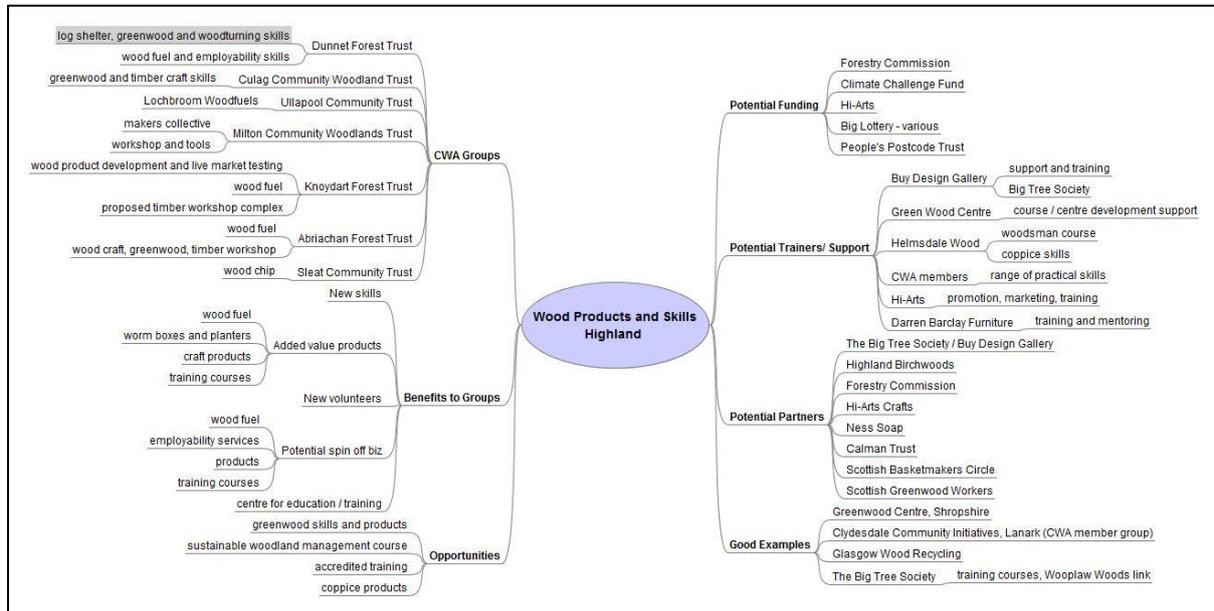
- Supporting relevant training including practical skills
- Developing and supporting live market testing of products
- Liaising with the Green Wood Centre, Shropshire and other relevant partners with regards to future development of an accredited course in Scotland
- Working with groups to develop wood fuel and related business opportunities, either by facilitating training, developing networks or pointing groups to other relevant support eg from partner organisations such as HISEZ, Highland Birchwoods etc
- Supporting groups to run training programmes and develop new products

It is expected that groups will require assistance to develop their proposals and seek the funding required to develop them. CWA, working with other support agencies where appropriate will be on

hand to assist with business planning and funding proposals. CWA has secured funding to employ a part time development officer to support the Enterprising Woodlands project until December 2013.

#### 4. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

The diagram below outlines key stakeholders and the range and potential scope of the project.



The proposal will be facilitated and coordinated by CWA through the Enterprising Woods project.

#### 5. OUTCOMES

##### 5.1 Social

This proposal will:-

- Bring groups and sector experts together
- Increase confidence in groups to develop and try new products to add value
- Increase skills
- Increase access to training
- Develop models and examples for others to use and adapt

The wider impacts are likely to include the above and:-

- Ongoing development
- A network of peer support

##### 5.2 Environmental

This proposal will:-

- Encourage and facilitate locally based wood and biomass fuel supplies
- Provide training in green wood working and sustainable growing techniques to support this industry

##### 5.3 Economic

This proposal will:-

- Support the development of products which will add value to community woodland groups portfolios of activities

- Increase community capacity

The wider impacts are likely to include the above and potentially:-

- New accredited training courses based on skills relevant to community woodlands and which meet future market demands
- Jobs and employability training

## 6. MARKET RESEARCH

### 6.1 Strategic Fit

The proposal fits well with many skills, community sustainability and environmental strategies including:-

- Skills for Scotland: Accelerating the Recovery and Increasing Sustainable Economic Growth
- Getting the best from our land - A land use strategy for Scotland
- The Government Economic Strategy
- Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy

### 6.2 Existing Resources

There are several research reports and resources out there at the moment relevant to this project including:-

- Forest Research - *Woodland related Social Enterprise: Enabling factors and barriers to success, 2011*
- Forestry Commission Scotland - *Woodfuel Demand and Usage in Scotland, 2011*

### 6.3 Existing Organisations

There are a number of groups and organisations now developing timber products and training:-

- Buy Design Gallery\*, The Big Tree Society and Wooplaw Community Woodlands\* demonstrate the links that can be made between private and community sectors and how timber from community woodlands can be used to train people in new skills and in products which can then be sold at high end galleries
- Glasgow Wood Recycling is a social enterprise which takes reclaimed timber and makes products which it sells through their website or storeroom in Glasgow
- Clydesdale Community Initiatives\* is a social enterprise and through CCI Roots runs a specialist workshop, creating unique, sustainable woodcrafts
- GalGael Trust\*, based in Govan, Glasgow the Trust began by boat building skills to develop and run a timber based employability and training programme
- Green Wood Centre, Shropshire – run by Small Woods and hosting a number of training events aimed at a wide range of beneficiaries the Centre also runs an Introduction to Small Woodland Management (OCN Level 3) which is designed for woodland owners and managers who want to create a woodland management plan
- Helmsdale Wood has developed and runs a traditional Woodsman's Coppice and Greenwood Skills course (OCN L3)

\* CWA member

## 7. COST ANALYSIS

The Enterprising Woods project provides grant funding for CWA to provide a part time Development Officer to support the Wood Skills and Products Highland project. There is also a budget to cover training, workshops and events plus participants travel. This funding is however limited and it is

anticipated that further funds will be sought if required (although this will take time as it is likely to involve applying to grants and trusts with different timescales).

Each community group project will have its own costs associated with developing their growing woodlands project and a number of potential funders are identified in the diagram in section 4. This list is not exhaustive or guaranteed.

## **8 APPENDICES**

### **8.1 Other Relevant Reports**

Below is a list of the previous reports which have pre-dated this work and to which this proposal is a further development. All are available at <http://www.communitywoods.org/about-documents.php>

- CWA Wood Products Workshop, August 2011
- CWA Wood Products Seminar, March 2011
- Timber Products Market Research - Summary of Follow Up Focus Meetings, February 2011
- Timber Product and Market Research - Interim Report, Survey Analysis, December 2010