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Setting up and running a successful community woodfuel enterprise

Saturday May 1st 2010

Laggan Forest Trust, Laggan, by Newtonmore

Background

Laggan Forest Trust was established in the early 1990s to safeguard the community's interest in its local state forest in response to rumours of a possible sale. More recently, the focus has changed to providing forestry and associated jobs in an attempt to halt population drift away from the area. A partnership agreement with Forestry Commission Scotland covering 1400 hectare Strathmashie forest has enabled the Laggan Forest Trust's Forestry Company to take on a range of forest-related contracts and activities. In addition, the Trust purchased three areas of woodland and is developing its plans for a forest centre, a tree nursery, a woodfuel enterprise, walks, and a site for green burials.

Course Objectives

- To increase awareness of the role that social enterprises play in woodfuel supply (mainly split logs and some woodchip) at the local scale;
- To provide participants with the information and contacts to set up and develop a woodfuel social enterprise, apply for funding and acquire appropriate equipment;
- To improve understanding of the economic, business management and technical considerations for running a successful community woodfuel supply as a social enterprise;
- To support Laggan Forest Trust's desire to establish a woodfuel enterprise.

A practical based day aimed at:

Community woodlands, the community energy sector, Transition Towns, forestry contractors etc. who are interested in e.g. woodland management; supplying local woodfuel markets with a low carbon, high quality product; or issues of fuel security for local communities.

Visiting Speakers/ Trainers:

Doreen McIntyre – freelance Marketing and Environmental Consultant	Jake Willis – Woodland Advisor, Community Woodlands Association & freelance forestry contractor
Grant Holroyd – Community Forest Manager, Knoydart Forest Trust	Amanda Calvert – Programme Officer, Renewable Heat Advisory Support Service, Highland Birchwoods

This event is supported by the Clim-Atic Programme, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Laggan Forest Trust, the Robertson Trust, the Hugh Fraser Foundation and the Community Woodlands Association.



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The Course will cover:

- Examples of existing social enterprises supplying woodfuel in rural Scotland;
- How to market woodfuel at the local scale;
- The different ways of getting hold of the raw material and the various ways of processing and seasoning it;
- The economics of woodfuel supply;
- What do you need to do to get started.

To find out more and to book go to www.lowcarboncairngorms.org You can also return your completed booking form (see below) to Fiona Duffy at Laggan Forest Trust, Strathmashie, Laggan, by Newtonmore, PH20 1AN as soon as possible and by no later than **Friday 23rd April 2010**.

Numbers are limited to 30 and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is FREE and open to anyone with an interest in woodfuel. We particularly encourage communities in the Cairngorm National Park to participate.

Directions

From Inverness: Take the A9 south to the turn-off to Kingussie and Newtonmore. Go through both villages and continue 5 miles west of Newtonmore, through the village of Laggan on the A86. Another 2 miles beyond the village you will see signs to the Wolftrax car park. The event is in the pony tacking shed at the back of the car park.

From the south: Take the A9 north to Dalwhinnie. Take the A889 to join the A86 (Kingussie-Spean Bridge road). Turn left onto the A86 and after a mile or so, you will see signs to the Wolftrax car park. The event is in the pony tacking shed at the back of the car park.

From Fort William: Take the A82 to Spean Bridge then take the A86 (signposted Cairngorm National Park) for about 25 miles. Two miles before the village of Laggan, you will see signs to the Wolftrax car park. The event is in the pony tacking shed at the back of the car park.



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Programme

Venue – Pony tacking shed, Wolfrax mountain bike centre, Laggan, by Newtonmore

9.30 – 10.00	Tea, coffee & registration
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome and housekeeping – Laggan Forest Trust
10.05 – 10.20	Introduction to community woodfuel enterprises – Jake Willis
10.20 – 10.40	How to get into the woodfuel market - Doreen McIntyre
10.40 – 11.00	Woodfuel enterprise scenarios and options – Grant Holroyd
11.00 – 11.20	Break out session – group working led by speakers/facilitators
11.20 – 11.40	Tea & coffee break
11.40 – 12.00	Processing and burning technologies for logs, chip and pellets – Jake Willis
12.00 – 12.20	Grants, support and advice for getting set up – Amanda Calvert
12.20 – 12.40	Break out session – group working led by speakers/facilitators
12.40 – 13.30	Lunch – <u>Wood-fired mobile pizza oven!</u>
13.30 – 15.00	Forest management and woodfuel processing site visit, Strathmashie Forest
15.00 – 15.20	Tea & Coffee
15.20 – 16.00	Getting started workshop: resource assessment, business planning, market research...
16.00	Depart

Equipment – please bring stout footwear, waterproofs, notebook and camera. Copies of presentations and leaflets will be available on the day.

Expenses:

The event is FREE. CWA delegates' expenses for travel and any necessary accommodation (those travelling long distances) are refundable as set out in booking form below.

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The Clim-ATIC project

The EU funded Clim-ATIC project (www.clim-atic.org) is supporting communities across Northern Europe to undertake practical adaptation activities in response to projected impacts of climate change. The project is carrying out a wide range of activities across a number of themes including tourism, energy, flooding and transport. It is working with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to implement a number of adaptation projects in the Park, one of which is a series of wood fuel training, promotional and awareness-raising events, and the setting up of a community log supply chain. Increasing the capacity of a region or a community to effectively use locally sourced renewable fuels, such as wood, is a smart adaptation when faced with possible future energy distribution and supply vulnerabilities.

The project will work alongside other ongoing woodfuel initiatives taking place in the Cairngorms National Park which will ensure a legacy of ongoing support and advice after the Clim-ATIC project is finished. In addition the Clim-ATIC project activities will be an integrated part of the Cairngorms National Park Woodfuel Action Plan, which will ensure complementarity with other woodfuel-related activities in the region.

Project contact: Clive Bowman, clive.bowman@perth.uhi.ac.uk

Low Carbon Cairngorms contact: Fiona Chalmers, Cairngorms National Park Authority
fionachalmers@cairngorms.co.uk

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BOOKING FORM

Name(s):
Address:
E-Mail:
Telephone:
Are you attending as a member of a CWA Group: Yes/No?
CWA group:

Are you able to offer other participants a lift? Yes/No	From
Are you looking for a lift to/from the event? Yes/No	From
Note that travel and any necessary accommodation expenses of CWA members will be reimbursed. Please endeavour to travel share or use public transport where possible.	
Please estimate your mileage cost (£0.25/mile) or train/bus cost here: £	

Lunch, tea & coffees will be provided. For catering purposes please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements:

Please also advise if you have any visual, physical, language or other requirements:

PLEASE RETURN this form by 23rd April to:

Fiona Duffy, Laggan Forest Trust, Strathmashie, Laggan, by Newtonmore, PH20 1AN

Or by email: frduffy@hotmail.co.uk

Tel 01528544366 with any queries.

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