



WIMMERA AND CENTRAL HIGHLANDS BIOENERGY PROJECT

BIOENERGY PROJECT UPDATE , April 2013

The tender process for the Beaufort Hospital boiler has been a major part of the Bioenergy Project (Building Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change through Distributed Bioenergy). Unfortunately only one non-conforming tender was received and the Project Control Group is reviewing the process and considering various options. Anyone seeking more information should contact the Project Manager Daryl Scherger on 53491100.

A Wimmera Reference Group meeting in March has identified potential projects that may be developed for the Wimmera. They are:

- Conduct a trial on producing energy pellets from agricultural residues and municipal green waste.
- Develop a proposal to heat the Horsham Aquatic Centre with agricultural waste.
- Carry out a small biodiesel trial in conjunction with Horsham Rural City using locally produced biodiesel.
- Further work will also be done on developing a bioenergy prospectus for the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

These activities will raise the profile of bioenergy in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region and support further development of future bioenergy installations.

Research that will contribute towards the regional project is currently being conducted by Ararat Rural City. Ararat is trialling producing fuel briquettes from municipal green waste. Green waste is a problem for most councils and finding a cost effective way of disposing of this material has been a challenge. The green waste briquettes can be used to replace conventional firewood in all types of stoves and heaters.

Testing by HRL has shown the briquettes have a similar heat output to commercial sawdust briquettes but have higher ash content. A quantity of briquettes will be produced and will be handed out at the Ararat Transfer Station together with a survey form. Depending on the response from the survey and demand for the samples, Ararat will investigate purchasing a commercial sized machine. Such a machine could be portable and would allow other councils in the region to also take advantage of this solution.

Go to: http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/What_We_Do/Environment/Regional_Bioenergy_Project

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the project please contact Daryl on (03) 5349 1100 or email: daryl.scherger@pyrenees.vic.gov.au.

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