

WIMMERA AND CENTRAL HIGHLANDS BIOENERGY PROJECT

BIOENERGY PROJECT UPDATE 10, February 2014

The wood boiler system at the Beaufort Hospital has now been delivered. The Bioenergy Project (Building Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change through Distributed Bioenergy) is now beginning to produce visible results, following two years of consultation, research and planning. As shown in the photos below, the boiler house is in place and connected to the hospital's heating system. Windows in the side of the boiler house allow the public to view the boiler which is now operating and supplying heat.

G & D Air-conditioning and Mechanicals Services have almost completed fitting out the boiler house and technicians from Living Energy have completed commissioning. The first load of wood chips from Pyrenees Timber was successfully delivered into the fuel store with all the boilers' feed systems working normally.



The boiler house being lowered into position



The boiler unit inside the container

Other activities for the project include completing the Horsham Aquatic Centre heating study. The study has identified potentially significant savings on heating costs by using wood waste to heat the indoor pool. Once completed, it will be presented to Horsham Rural City and other Wimmera councils. The study considered other potential fuels include grain waste and municipal green waste.

Grain waste is currently either left in the paddock or sent to landfill by grain processors as there is currently no market for it. If it can successfully be used as a heating fuel it could open up a new market for local grain producers. Information from green waste processing trials done by Highlands Waste Management Group will be used to evaluate its potential as heating fuel.

An official opening, a bioenergy forum and other opportunities to check out the facility are now being planned for April and May. Interest in bioenergy is starting to grow and anyone considering using it can now view a working system at the Beaufort. The boiler house is in Walker Street behind the hospital and has pedestrian access. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the project please visit

http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/What_We_Do/Environment/Regional_Bioenergy_Project
or contact Daryl on (03) 5349 1100 or email: daryl.scherger@pyrenees.vic.gov.au.