

## **ENERGY BIOMASS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (EBIDS)**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

#### **1. What expenditure is eligible for an EBIDS grant?**

- New buildings for storage of Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) willow.
- Modification of existing farm buildings to store SRC willow.
- Driers and drying floors, with associated fans, ducts, heaters and electricity supply, for use with SRC willow.
- Modification of existing driers to improve drying of SRC willow.
- Specialist SRC willow harvesting equipment.
- Specialist attachments and modifications for existing harvesters to enable them to harvest SRC willow.

#### **2. Who can apply?**

##### **(a) SRC Willow stores and driers**

Applicants for new or modified storage and drying facilities must be able to prove a need for the storage or dryer because they are –

- growing SRC willow at time of application; and / or
- have commissioned planting before 30 June 2007 and be able to produce evidence of this; and / or
- have “letters of intent” from other growers confirming that the store / dryer will be used for their crop.

The minimum area necessary to support any application will be 3 hectares.

##### **(b) Harvesting equipment.**

Applicants will be required to provide evidence of the area of SRC willow crop to be harvested. This evidence will be in the form of letters of intent from willow growers, which will include the area of willow grown by them.

**Funding will not be provided for standard items of equipment capable of routine use** for purposes other than biomass energy production. e.g. chainsaws, forage harvesters, forklifts and trailers, including low ground pressure trailers or lorries.

**Second hand equipment will only be considered for assistance where –**

- There is a declaration in writing from the seller that confirms the origin of the item and that it has not previously been subject to any grant aid; and
- The purchase represents a particular advantage for the project or is necessary because no new equivalent is available; and
- The equipment is in good working condition and costs, when compared with buying the same equipment new, are reasonable and yield a good cost / benefit ratio; and
- The item has the technical features required for the project.

### **3. What is the rate of grant?**

The rate of grant for successful applications will not exceed 44% of eligible expenditure. The grant will be paid in a maximum of two parts.

### **4. Is there a limit to the amount of grant any individual or organisation can claim?**

The minimum eligible expenditure on which grant can be claimed is £1000.

The maximum grant payable per applicant is £65,000; equivalent to an eligible expenditure of just over £147,500 if supported at a rate of 44%.

#### **NOTE:**

**All applications will be subject to economic appraisal by the promoter (Countryside Services Ltd.) which must show that the investment is economically justified and provides value for money.**

### **5. When must the work be carried out or equipment purchased?**

All work must be completed and claims submitted to Countryside Services Limited (CSL) by 30 June 2008. **Work must not be started before the “letter of offer” from CSL has been formally accepted by the applicant.**

### **6. Standard of Construction.**

Minimum standards of construction are specified and must be met. Chartered Engineers Certificates will be required, prior to payment of any grant, for all work of a structural nature.

### **7. Planning Approval**

At time of application, assurances must be provided to show that Planning Approval is not required or has been applied for.

### **8. Professional Fees.**

Professional fees which are reasonable and directly linked to the investment, are eligible for grant aid. Administrative form filling charges will not be eligible.

**APPLICATION WILL OPEN ON MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2007 AND CLOSE AT 3.00 pm ON FRIDAY 30 MARCH 2007.**

**For further information and Application Forms contact –**

[www.countrysideservices.com](http://www.countrysideservices.com) or

Countryside Services Ltd.

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