

CASE STUDY: BIOMASS BOILER INSTALLATION



Herefordshire Poultry Farm

An annual cost saving of around £236,000 has been achieved with the installation of a 1.592MW biomass-fuelled boiler system and renewable fuel storage facilities for a successful poultry business.

Faced with ever-increasing bills for heating the nine poultry sheds with traditional, gas-fired boilers, this Hereford based poultry site needed to find a way of lowering its energy costs, whilst ensuring that the environment could also benefit by a reduction in the site’s carbon emissions.

Recognising the benefits that biomass heating offers, coupled with the availability of the Government’s Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) - which pays a site’s owner for the heat produced by eligible renewable technologies (such as biomass wood-chip fuel) over a 20-year period – the company decided to replace the gas heating system with a fully-automated biomass boiler system.

Having engaged Edge Renewables to design, install and commission a single biomass-fuelled energy centre - complete

with fuel-handling and control systems.



Headline Figures:

- Total capacity of 1.592MW
- Annual savings of £236,000
- Payback within four – five years.
- Annual RHI Income of £209,000
- Annual wood-fuel costs of £111,000

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System Information

The system's total installed capacity of 1.592MW is achieved with eight, 199kW high-efficiency biomass boilers with low emission levels. They provide heating for the site's nine boiler sheds and having automatic ignition, self-activated cleaning and a large ash containers, they have been integrated into the automated control system to provide the client with an easy-to-use heat source.

In order to level out the peaks in the site's heat demands, Edge Renewables has incorporated a series of insulated heat accumulator tanks within the energy centre. This allows for the automated sequence controls to store and release heat in the most economical way – quickly responding to the site's demands and even shutting some boilers down in the summer months.

There are eight 5,000-litre storage tanks used on the site.

The heat produced is piped to each of the eight sheds by a highly-efficient buried pre-insulated pipe network, running from the single plant room and chip store.



Fuel

The new system utilises a wood chip, that conforms to the EN 14961-4 specification with a moisture content of between 25-30% when delivered to site.

This is being supplied by Edge Renewables from its nearby biomass fuel production facility which processes timber sourced from sustainably-managed forests within the local area to help minimise transportation.



The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

Following the commissioning of the project in 2014, the installation was approved for the UK Government's non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme.

This scheme was designed to encourage the uptake of renewable heat technologies such as biomass boilers and pays the owner of a qualifying installation to generate renewable heat for a period of 20 years.

Heat meters were installed at the site to record the usage of the system and provide accurate readings to enable the RHI payments to be successfully claimed.

This will pay back the cost of the biomass boiler installation, in around four to five years – thereby making a sound financial investment which will provide a comfortable return on the client's capital expenditure over the 20-year period.

Carbon Savings

As the system uses a sustainable wood fuel, which has absorbed carbon dioxide whilst it was growing, using it in a highly-efficient biomass boiler results in large savings in carbon emissions – when comparing it to the traditional alternatives using fossil fuels such as fuel oil, LPG and natural gas.



About Edge Renewables

Formed in 2011, the company specialises in the design and installation of renewable energy technologies for homes, farms and businesses - such as biomass boilers and solar PV systems. In addition to this, the company also produces wood chip biomass fuel - a 'green', renewable fuel that is helping reduce the UK's dependence on fossil fuels.

In an annual report released by Ofgem for its RHI scheme - it was found that since its inception in November 2011, as of March 2013, Edge Renewables' clients accounted for some 19% of the total eligible heat generated under the RHI programme.

Find out more

To find out more, please call 0845 603 3833, email sales@edgerenewables.com or visit the website www.edgerenewables.com

