

Executive Officer Report to Wood Energy Interest Group

Information in this report is mainly for information and will not be discussed unless any matters are raised by members.

a. *Government and relations with other parties*

EECA invited me and paid my airfare to Wellington to attend an EECA/MBIE meeting to consider heat plant scenarios for their energy market modelling. Scion also attended and we were both able to comment extensively on the gaps in the MBIE work. EECA were more in the right space.

I met with the MBIE energy markets team and introduced myself to the new staff. Follow up meeting to discuss the bioenergy markets will occur in May.

I met with Gareth Hughes the Green Party energy spokesperson who was very receptive to the BANZ messages and invited ongoing connection and working together. He was on the money immediately and enthusiastic.

I met with Stuart Nash the Labour Party energy spokesperson who was more luke warm as to bioenergy and had a very limited understanding of wood energy. He kept drifting to liquid biofuels in his comments. We have a lot of work to be done with him.

Fortnightly meetings have continued with Richard Briggs from EECA and these have been very positive. The collaboration Agreement has been signed and now has to be implemented (see agenda item 6).

Discussions have continued with Waiariki Institute of Technology with regard to running bioenergy training short courses.

EECA have appointed Dinesh Chand who will become our main point of day-to-day contact with specific EECA projects. Richard Briggs will remain and participate as the overall relationship manager. Dinesh is also managing the Southland project and an EECA objective will be to better align that project with us.

I have had a meeting with Mike Underhill to get a photo of signing of the Collaboration Agreement that we can use in announcing the agreement. Focus of discussion was on the agreement

I have meet twice with the Sustainable Business Network and agreed to work together. Currently their interest is on transport biofuels. While naive with regard to biofuels they do provide BANZ with access to users and potential users of bioenergy. I am trying to get them to understand themore immediate heat benefits available to their members.

I gave a presentation (twice) to the NZ Farm Forestry Association conference.

I (and half the other attendees who were from BANZ) attended a workshop convened by DairyNZ to look at biogas from dairy effluent with an objective of seeing if DairyNZ should become active in this area.

I had my regular catchup with NZ Forest Owners Association who we work in partnership with.

b. *Regional initiatives*

Two meetings have been held with EECA with regard to the Southland issues. Grant Smith attended the first which was setting out the problem for Bill Brander who is the EECA manager who has inherited the southland project. EECA have taken on board the issues and are working to address them. (refer meeting paper attached for details).

The Rotorua Bioenergy Cluster have held a very successful district heating mini-symposium in Rotorua - Sustainable development opportunities for Rotorua:

Clean, Healthy and Wise Heat for Communities.

c. *Media and promotion*

No media statements have been released in the last period.

A big push for the training course and the accreditation schemes will start next week.

d. *Registered Wood Fuel and Biogas Advisers Scheme*

The testing of the Registered Wood Energy Advisers Scheme has shown that the criteria for registration is too severe and very few consultants would be able to be registered. Consequently the criteria are being reviewed so that the criteria are not a barrier to the scheme working successfully.

Once we have got the first wood energy advisers registered then we can apply the scheme to the biogas advisers.

e. *Wood fuel supplier accreditation scheme*

Canterbury Woodchip Supplies is the first wood fuel supplier who has been accredited.

A big push to get suppliers accredited and heat plant owners buying only from accredited suppliers is the next task.

A promotion of the scheme will now be developed and EECA have made funds available for that.

f. *Communications project*

Phase 2 of the Communications Project has continued and is within budget. We have had to do some minor shuffling of budget between items..

The activities of the Communications project are progressing successfully so that in about 2 weeks we will have drafts of all websites ready for viewing and we will be able to launch the new branding and websites. Currently scheduled for the first week of June.

g. *Conferences and Continuing Professional Development Programme*

Because of time constraints slow progress has been made on developing the proposed symposium ***Using renewable natural resources and clean technologies to achieve economic, employment and environmental benefits via energy.***

For information on the upcoming events programme see meeting paper attached.

Note the move to expand BANZ activities to attract plant operators to be members with the Wood Fuelled Heat Operators Forum being held on the 26th June.

The first wood energy training course at Waiariki will be held on the 27th June WE6 “Small Scale Wood Fuelled Heat Plant Operation”. The target for attendees is schools and resthomes etc who do not have technical staff operating the plant and who need to show that they are taking OSH seriously.

h. Internal management

The key focus for staff over the last two months has been getting in place the Wood Energy Quality Framework, assisting individual members, identifying potential new members and initiating discussions with them.

The AGM will be held on the 25th June.

i. Interest Groups support

Support for the WFIG and BIG has continued although with reduced ability to develop projects because of lack of project funding.

Working with DairyNZ to ensure that they are integrated with BIG.

Coordinating with the Bioenergy Australia Task Group 37 (biogas) initiatives with a shared webinar.

j. Membership

Membership renewals are an ongoing activity as follow up to previous members sometimes gets them to change their minds and they rejoin.

There is a slow trickle of new members mainly being attracted by the member services provided. In particular the opportunity to promote their services and equipment eg Clark Energy have joined as a Gold member.