

Case study Trafford biomass hub



A hub of renewable energy has been established in Mickle Trafford, Cheshire, as a result of the **Cheshire Rural Biomass project (CheRuB)**.

The hub is comprised of three different types of small-scale woodfuel heating systems in different locations, and showcases the vast potential of this form of energy in rural areas.



Trafford Mill Batch log system

Trafford Mill is a listed building and is home to the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV) in Cheshire. The building was previously heated with electric radiators and the bills were expensive.



The installed batch log system at Trafford Mill.

As part of this project, a batch-log heating system was installed at Trafford Mill. It is fuelled with logs which are produced by TCV volunteers as a by-product of their woodland conservation work. The batch log system is a 50kW HDG boiler. It burns a batch of logs once a day. The hot water is then stored in an insulated 3.5 tonne thermal store or accumulator tank until needed. This then feeds a new radiator system controlled by a normal programmable thermostat.

Pete Atwood, TCV manager, said: "This isn't the sort of system that would suit many people but for us it is perfect.

"The fuel is free for us as it comes from local woodlands which we have responsibly managed ourselves."

Trafford Hall Wood pellet fired boiler with district heating network

Trafford Hall is a residential training centre for the voluntary and community sector. The management has worked hard to reduce energy use, switching to renewables where possible. The final element was to replace the existing oil and LPG boilers to biomass. Two 45kW Herz automatic wood pellet fired boilers were chosen, and CheRuB funded the "District Heat Network", which involved laying an insulated pipe which carries heat from the main boiler room to the outer buildings.



The wood pellet store at The Grange.

The Grange, Trafford Wood pellet air heater

The Grange is a working family farm, centring around a small herd of Red Poll cattle. The meat is marketed directly from the farm and is available in local restaurants. Manager Huw Rolands takes educational activity seriously and has converted an old barn into a classroom facility. When used by school groups, this room was previously heated with portable electric heaters. It is now heated by a 8kW wood pellet hot air heater. Huw said: "It is a perfect solution to heat an irregularly used space quickly. It also serves as a useful educational tool about sustainable heating."

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