

1 April 2008

## Bioenergy Association establishes a 'Wood Pellets Interest Group'

Following the successful BANZ Conference – 'Growing the NZ Wood Pellet Market' – held in Rotorua 23 – 24 November 2006, the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ) has established a 'Wood Pellets Interest Group' to further the interest and to organise a further workshop for late 2008.

Brian Cox, Executive Officer of the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ) said, *"The industry stands only to gain from an initiative like this. The current Government commitment to renewable energy means that there is a real opportunity to use biomass for exactly what its best placed to do and that's provide heat. Whether for residential or commercial use, wood pellets have many advantages not least their ease of use and their low emissions. This Group will give players in the Wood Pellets sector a point of focus. For its Members it will be a means of support and information to the sector. It will help the players realise their growth potential. The Group will take the lead on facilitating training and accreditation initiatives ensuring the sector works to high quality standards and giving consumers an assurance that they are getting quality systems and quality fuels."*

*Wood pellets and quality wood chip can be burned in highly efficient heaters and boilers that can meet the air emission limits now being set for many urban areas."*

### Purpose

The purpose of the Interest Group is to give a central focus to the Wood Pellets Industry to share information and learn more about available technologies and key issues affecting the sale and use of Wood Pellets and Wood Pellet burners/boilers. The Group will act as a means to share information and facilitate discussion to those involved in the Industry – specifically manufacturers, importers, retailers etc of pellets and pellet burner and boiler technologies.

The ultimate aim is to grow the Wood Pellet's market in New Zealand, to ensure high quality standards for the production of pellets, the technologies that use them, and the installation of these technologies in residential and commercial applications. The general public can access information about Bioenergy at [www.bioenergy.org.nz](http://www.bioenergy.org.nz) and Wood Pellets specifically at [www.woodpellets.org.nz](http://www.woodpellets.org.nz)

### Wood Pellets – what are they?

Wood Pellets are one of the fastest growing residential fuels in New Zealand. Interest from schools and hospitals, the horticultural sector and hotels. Amongst their many advantages, pellets are convenient and easy to use, they have a high heat output and low waste and the fact that they are a renewable resource. A particular advantage for towns and cities across New Zealand that struggle with poor air quality is that the particulate emissions from pellet burners is extremely low. **Recent research estimates that in 2006 there were 20,000 pellet fires in New Zealand and 30,000 tonnes or 0.6 PJ of wood pellets consumed annually, mainly in the residential market.** Predicted growth in New Zealand is significant with some scenarios putting consumption in the residential market as high as 3.9PJ by 2030. Final figures will of course be determined by a number of factors not least the price of pellets, the availability of feed stock, the magnitude of a carbon charge and the price of other competing fuels.

### **Key Areas of Focus**

It is anticipated that the following issues will be prioritised initially in the Wood Pellets Interest Group:

1. Training and accreditation for burner installers
2. Standards and certification of pellets manufacture and burner technologies.
3. Availability of pellets and stove/burner and boilers nationally
4. Market development opportunities including fuel availability and trading.
5. Installation issues – ensuring quality and customer satisfaction.

### **What does the Group offer?**

Group Members have exclusive access to the following:

- Training and accreditation programmes.
- Publications on Wood Pellets.
- Representation of their views in submissions to Government.
- The development of industry/sector solutions/
- Comprehensive information services on Wood Pellets.

### **Access to information**

Access to the information that the Interest Group produces will be limited to BANZ Members. If you would like further information, please contact [Connie.Crookshanks@eastharb.co.nz](mailto:Connie.Crookshanks@eastharb.co.nz) or call 027 472 8038. Information on Membership on BANZ can be found at [www.bioenergy.org.nz](http://www.bioenergy.org.nz)

Some information on Wood Pellets and the Bioenergy Association in general is available to non-Members via the BANZ web-site [www.bioenergy.org.nz](http://www.bioenergy.org.nz). Information on Wood Pellets for the General Public is available at [www.woodpellets.org.nz](http://www.woodpellets.org.nz)

### **Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ)**

The Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ) has been established to promote and coordinate the development of a bioenergy industry in New Zealand. The Association provides a central focus point for liaison with Government agencies, the dissemination of information amongst the industry and long-term positioning of bioenergy into New Zealand's energy system.

Members include anyone with a commercial interest in bioenergy - sawmillers, wood processors, energy suppliers, energy researchers, consultants, manufacturers and investors.

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