



## The BANZ Wood Pellet Boiler Operator Training Course and Certification

**Do you have a wood pellet fuelled boiler? Are you thinking about converting to heating by use of wood pellets fuel? The BANZ wood pellet boiler operator course is essential training for staff who are responsible for ensuring safe and efficient boiler operation.**

The number of boilers now running on wood pellets in New Zealand (in particular in schools) continues to rise, as do the number of different parties offering installation and conversion services. There are a number of obvious advantages to using wood pellets, the most obvious of which is that they are clean burning and use a sustainable fuel. The added advantages compared to coal include ease of use, minimal cleaning and low maintenance. But operating a wood pellet boiler is quite different to similar operation of a coal boiler, and boiler operator training is an essential component of switching from one fuel to another.

Cost and current boiler condition will always be a factor in anyone's decision to convert their existing coal boiler to run on wood pellets, or throw it away and install a new one. The choice of fuel and boiler technology should also have taken account of the reduced operating costs that wood pellets can provide. Many schools for example have funded replacement of their existing boilers and shifted from coal to pellets in the process. Others have been able to convert existing boilers from coal to run on pellets. For the 46 school boilers now running on wood fuel, 40 are running on wood pellets and 31 are boiler conversions (originally coal boilers) now running on wood pellets. To maximise the efficiency gains from these investments, and to ensure safe operation, ***BANZ recommends that boiler operators attend an appropriate training course.***

Following the success of their 2009 country-wide courses, the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ) will be holding a further half-day training course aimed at Boiler Operators and/or Property Managers with responsibility for boilers in schools specifically burning wood pellets.

### **Converting from Coal to Pellets – What you need to know**

In order that boiler operators understand the differences between operating a wood pellet and a coal boiler the BANZ Wood pellet Boiler Operator Course is focused on operators achieving the following:

- maximise efficiency from the boilers
- maximise the potentially for emissions reduction, and
- maintain operational safety.

The Course will be conducted primarily by Desmond Gong, Combustion Engineer at Solid Energy. Desmond is considered a leading expert in boiler technology and wood pellet and coal

combustion. The course is “hands on” and takes place in the boiler house. Due to space limitations, courses are typically limited to 15 people.

## Operator certification

BANZ recognizes that school health and safety plans often require a demonstration of competence for operators of school equipment. BANZ has therefore established a scheme for certification and registration of trained wood pellet boiler operators that schools can utilize. Those boiler operators who attend the BANZ training courses will be issued with a laminated certificate that can be affixed to the boiler room wall which certifies that they have attended the training course. The certificate is personal to the trained operators so schools are encouraged to get replacement operators trained when necessary.

## 2010 Course Details and Locations

Location	School	Date	Places	Details
Bay of Plenty	Rotorua Girls High School 251 Old Taupo Road, Rotorua	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 1.00 – 4.00pm	15	1 MW boiler converted from coal to wood pellets almost 4 years ago
tba	Details to be advised. Further course will be arranged to meet demand.			

### **Course Title - Wood Pellet Boiler Operator Training Course (School Scale)**

**Course Commitment** - Courses are 2 – 3 hours in duration at a school boiler site where operating characteristics can be shown. Registration will be accepted on a first come basis with a limit of 15 attendees at any course.

**Course Details and Content** - As a School Boiler Operator/Property Manager, this Course will help you to:

- Understand the basic principles of small scale wood pellet boiler operation
- Identify and solve routine operational problems
- Develop basic routine and annual maintenance programmes
- Operate your boiler to maximize efficiency and heat delivery
- Learn about routine monitoring to ensure efficient operation
- Operate your boiler safely.

An operator training resource book will be provided to attendees on attendance at the course.

This initiative has been developed by the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ). The initiative is supported by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and Solid Energy.

**Who should attend this course?** – School boiler operators, Local Council consent staff, Heating companies, Boiler installers, Property managers.

**Make a Booking or Register Interest in a Future Course** – Please register your interest in the course [here](#). Please note your name and contact details. If you cannot attend the next arranged course, contact BANZ to register your interest in future courses later in the year.

**Course Fees** – \$90 (payable to The Bioenergy Association of New Zealand – Account **030510:0812287:00**. Please note your name as the payee.