

CWMNI EJNI ABERGYNOLWYN CYF (Abergynolwyn Energy Company)

Contact

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This is a village initiative the goal of which is to improve the environmental, social and economic circumstances of the Abergynolwyn area. The biomass project is the first within this remit. This ambitious development involves pooling resources and attracting grant funding to buy, install and run a large biomass wood-burning system, supplying heat to a number of homes and community buildings in the area. Householders who buy into the system will enjoy reduced fuel bills, and will be part of a ground-breaking scheme with enormous environmental benefits, both locally and further afield.

Wood fuel for the system will come from woodland sources within a thirty mile radius, therefore the bulk of the money spent on heat has a chance to circulate within the area.

Such woodland management will also generate significant employment. The Forestry Commission has assessed that 1.25 jobs are created for every 1,000 tons of raw fuel harvested. Working at full capacity this means 9 jobs in the Abergynolwyn locality – sustainable jobs based on a sustainable resource.

Whether paid or voluntary, everyone is given an opportunity to take a role and to be fully supported and trained within that role, which is going to have wider implications for the community. The people of Abergynolwyn have a strong community spirit – a history of co-operation reminiscent of past isolated village sustainability, of communal solutions to common problems.

At present, the project is completing a local survey with the aim of producing a documented methodology for other village communities that might wish to start a similar scheme.

Status of project: Company limited by guarantee

Area: Area of Community Council of Llanfihangel-y-Pennant