



Local Authority Area – Slough
Borough Council



WEXHAM NURSERY

Background

Wexham Nurseries is owned and operated by Slough Borough Council and provides plants for Slough's parks, roundabouts and hanging baskets.

In April 2004, a feasibility study was conducted by 3G Energi to consider suitability for a wood fuelled boiler system to replace an existing oil boiler used to keep the glasshouses warm for plant propagation.

The Technology / Scope of Project

Biomass Boiler

The heat to the greenhouses, on site offices and two further council buildings is supplied to the network from a woodchip boiler.

The installation was undertaken by 3G Energi and features one of their 540 kW Kob boilers. Wood fuel will be sourced by TVBioenergy from local sources and the system was commissioned in October.



Fig 1: Kob Boiler



Fig 2: Chip Blower and Silo

Specification

A Pyrot 540 kW boiler is installed in the existing boilerhouse with an external, above-ground fuel store with transfer augers to feed in the wood chip.

Importance to the Thames Valley

The nursery is not only engaged in propagation but also has an adult education role, has a thriving garden centre and provides facilities for school field trips. The addition of a biomass boiler as part of the nursery provide additional education and public awareness opportunities for renewable energy in the Slough area as well as reducing heating costs and CO₂ emissions for the nursery and Slough Borough Council.

The benefits of a wood heat system are

- Carbon saving
- Very much reduced sulphur emissions
- Creating local employment and training opportunities
- Finding a use for low grade timber
- Annual savings on fuel
- Demonstration value