

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

DETAILS :

Energy crop contracts for Didcot power station :

Contact name			
Address			
Area of farm (ha)		Post Code	
Phone no.		Mobile no.	
Fax no.		e-mail	

INTEREST :

Indicate planting year you are interested in :

	Spring 2005	Spring 2006	Spring 2007
£/t contract	ha	ha	ha
£/ha contract	ha	ha	ha
Land type			
Facilities you may have available ; hardstanding, free draining land, equipment, skills, storage/repair areas etc			

INFORMATION :

Please tick for more information :

'Energy from Willow' – SAC/DEFRA information booklets	<input type="checkbox"/>	A3 Colour Leaflet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Draft 2004 Contract Terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	A4 Enclosures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visits – Didcot power station/Coppice farms/European sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meetings/Presentations/Discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>

DECLARATION :

Please sign :

I understand that this document does not constitute a contract between the parties involved and that its status is simply an 'Expression of Interest'.		<i>I have no objection to my contact details being kept on a confidential electronic data-base for the sole purposes of this project – cross this box if you do not agree</i>
Signed	Date	
Print		

RETURN :

Please return to this address :

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	e-mail :	ian@esd.co.uk
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ENERGY CROPS SCHEME

Growing energy crops for Didcot power station is supported by the DEFRA Energy Crops Scheme (ECS) which has been established to assist the development of energy crops through two mechanisms, Establishment Grants and Producer Groups :

ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS :

Direct planting support available through DEFRA :

To support the introduction of energy cropping there are planting grants made available under the ECS on a hectare basis to help cover some of the expenditure involved in buying and planting the willow cuttings, and to assist with the initial cultivation needed to establish the crop.

These grants are applied for on the basis of the previous use of the land and in 2004/5 are typically £1,000/ha.

Energy crops must be established for a contracted energy market, and grown in a sustainable way on at least 3ha under a 5yr agreement. ESDBiomass will assist in preparing the application and the funds will go towards covering the planting costs under both the £/t and £/ha contracts.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/energy/establishment.htm#grouprules>

PRODUCER GROUP :

Collective action to introduce profitable energy crops :

To support the introduction of willow coppice an Energy Crop Producer Group will be set up by growers and ESDBiomass supplying fuel crop to Didcot Power Station. This Group will allow us to develop the techniques for growing and managing the willow energy crop specifically for the power station market in this area. This Group can be co-funded by DEFRA and will allow us to recruit more growers and expand the scale of the biomass fuel supply business. Both increased cropping in the area and improved growing practices will bring costs down and improve the profitability of the crop for everyone. All contracted growers in the area will be members of the group and will have control over how it operates.

The producer group will allow us to provide agronomy services to look after the crops and give advice to growers. It can also allow us to purchase and operate machines for crop maintenance and harvesting.

Through the producer group will come the opportunity to learn more about the crop, visit and discuss with farmers and other areas and countries, and get involved in any work to develop the husbandry techniques and mechanisation that will lead to improve profitability.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/energy/producer.htm>

Under the ECS non-set aside land also qualifies for additional area energy crop aid under the single payment, scheme up to a ceiling of £31/ha in 2004/5, and through an arrangement with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).