



15 September 2011

BANZ Media Statement

Bioenergy Association welcomes funding for industrial and commercial heat

The Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ) today welcomed the announcement of a new funding scheme to promote the uptake of bioenergy.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) has announced that grants of 40% (up to \$20,000) will be available to fund feasibility studies to investigate using bioenergy (e.g. wood) or geothermal energy for large-scale industrial and commercial heat.

Brian Cox, the Bioenergy Association's Executive Officer said, *"New Zealand has immense untapped potential for bioenergy, particularly from our forests. A strong local bioenergy industry would reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and also bring huge economic and social benefits through increased employment. It's very pleasing to see Government supporting bioenergy through initiatives of this kind, and in its recently-released energy strategy."*

Mr Cox added, *"Bioenergy is based on well proven technology and so doesn't require research, but what it needs is demonstration and this funding will allow good ideas to proceed to implementation."*

Background

The Bioenergy Association:

- Mission Statement is "to promote the maximum utilisation of all forms of sustainable bioenergy in New Zealand".
- Vision is that "Bioenergy in all its forms will supply more than 25% of the country's energy needs, including 30% of the country's transport fuels by around 2040."
- Has over 300 hundred members working across the length and breadth of the various supply chains.
- 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.
- Works closely with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- Has four Interest Groups which enables a focus on key areas:
 - Liquid Biofuels
 - Wood Pellets
 - Biogas
 - Wood Fuel.

Further Details:

For further information see www.bioenergy.org.nz

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