



## Wood Energy Advisor Registration Scheme

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### What is the Wood Energy Advisor Registration Scheme?

The Wood Energy Advisor Registration Scheme (WEARS) is available to New Zealand and Australian consultants and advisers who have demonstrated that they have a level of knowledge and experience appropriate for undertaking feasibility studies and assisting potential wood fuelled heat plant owners to scope and install heat plant. Having demonstrated that they meet the criteria they can be acknowledged by becoming Registered Wood Energy Advisers.

Registration is personal as clients want to know that the individuals giving advice have the appropriate knowledge and experience to do so.

The scheme is aimed at ensuring the delivery of high-quality advice time and time again. The Scheme presents a win-win for clients and Registered Advisors - registration will provide assurance to clients, and advisors can show an external assessment of their experience with wood energy projects.

Undertaking wood energy projects such as feasibility studies or heat plant business case writing requires knowledge of wood energy plant and equipment, fuel/feedstock supply, equipment supply, end-uses and safety. Such advisors also need to understand the different operating characteristics between wood fuelled and coal plant.

At the start of a wood energy project the work undertaken by the consultants are of an advisory nature rather than detailed engineering hence this scheme focuses on the wide breadth of knowledge that is required. The detailed plant design is often undertaken by equipment suppliers as most heat plant use off-the-shelf equipment. The term Advisor also overcomes any confusion with regard to the responsibilities of Chartered Engineers working as consultants on design.

The scheme is designed to ensure that advisors providing services to wood energy related projects have appropriate experience and knowledge to undertake the types of projects they are involved with. The scheme is based on recognised minimum standard of professional conduct, experience and knowledge for these consultant groups. The scheme will improve market confidence and consistency in the provision of wood energy project services.

The Scheme is administered by the Bioenergy Association and covers New Zealand and Australia.

Registered Advisors are individuals who have demonstrated to an independent party that they have met specific criteria showing that they have achieved an appropriate minimum level of knowledge and experience in that specialist topic.

A Registered Wood Energy Advisor must belong as an individual or to a company or other organisation that is a member of Bioenergy Association so that there is responsible oversight and a peer linkage to industry best practice and utilisation of appropriate technical standards. As a member the Adviser also has access to the association's Continuing Professional Development Programme and complaints procedures.

Registered Wood Energy Advisors are professionals who are recognised by Bioenergy Association as being qualified by education and experience to research, scope, plan and supervise the feasibility and installation of wood energy plant as appropriate. Their expertise lies in using their knowledge and experience to the benefit of the client, undertaking the feasibility study of possible projects, and scoping, specifying, supplying or installing appropriate solutions.

Once certified the named consultant must maintain registration by working within the Members' Code of Conduct and undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in order to remain up to date with new products, services, regulations and best practice.

The Registered Wood Energy Advisor credential applies to an individual and not a company and applies for two years starting from the time of registration.

## Advisor endorsements

Registered advisors are listed under the following endorsements:

- *fuel and fuel handling* - includes biomass sourcing and fuel preparation; supply contracts
- *heat plant engineering and operation* - includes design of primary and ancillary equipment; tender, construction and commissioning
- *commercial feasibility and contracts* - includes commercial analysis; business case preparation; market analysis and development
- *engineering and commercial* - includes all aspects

## What is the process for achieving registration?

The registration process is a straightforward process including an application form, with supporting evidence of personal experience and levels of responsibility for wood energy work undertaken, and customer references.

Full details on the scheme can be found here [www.usewoodfuel.org.nz/registered-wood-energy-advisors](http://www.usewoodfuel.org.nz/registered-wood-energy-advisors). In brief, this includes enough evidence for an independent party to confirm that the advisor meets the criteria for registration.

## Verification of experience

To keep compliance costs to a minimum the scheme is based on Registered Advisors providing verification of their knowledge and experience with wood energy projects. The Scheme Administrator may undertake spot audits or seek independent verification on the information provided.

## Why registration?

Employers of advisors want to know that the person that they have contracted to advise them will give appropriate advice. By being registered by an independent body will give assurance to a potential client.

Advisors benefit from having a nationally recognised and authoritative independent auditing of their knowledge and



experience that is appropriate to the level of risk faced by facility owners yet does not place an undue administrative burden upon advisors.

The Scheme benefits both advisors and their customers. Customers can be assured of high-quality advice when they engage advisors registered under the Scheme. As customer confidence grows, the sector in turn benefits as more and more users switch to engaging only Registered Advisors. From an advisor's perspective, this means market growth and more sales.

## Benefits of advisors being registered

As an advisor, becoming registered under the WEARS offers a range of practical, commercial benefits.

### The brand of quality

The WEARS logo is the mark of advice. It is the mark of a responsible, knowledgeable and conscientious advisor that wood energy consumers can trust. At a glance, the WEARS is a brand of trust.



Look for the logo of the Registered Wood Energy Advisers. This signals that they meet standards acceptable to the Association.

The WEARS is rigorous, practical and cost effective with a compact but thorough assessment process.

As administrators of the scheme, the Bioenergy Association is able to offer practical support to the sector and share learning's from national and international experiences. For the market to grow it is important that this scheme is seen as a means of encouraging continuous improvement. The Bioenergy Association is able to offer support on training, technology and effective procedures to advisors and inform heat plant facility owners on the importance of engaging only registered advisors.

### Business opportunity

Recent years has seen positive growth in the demand for wood fuels in New Zealand and it is growing in Australia (although the fuels are different). The types of fuel and the installation of new plant used to burn them has seen strong growth. Australasia is now well supplied with the leading international heat plant equipment. The demand for reliable, appropriately specified wood fuel is increasing steadily with the growth in the number of installations of both commercial biomass boilers and residential wood pellet heating. There is a steady growth in the education, health and accommodation sectors for use of quality wood pellet fuel alongside positive residential space heating use.

## Registered advisers

A list of Registered Wood Energy Advisers is available [here](#).

## Wood energy adviser - why become WEARS registered?

There are a number of benefits to a wood energy adviser to becoming registered under the scheme:

- Good quality design and performance of plant promotes the biomass energy industry in New Zealand and increases demand for conversion from fossil to biomass fuels.
- Customer confidence in converting from fossil to biomass as an alternative fuel is boosted as a result of consistency of heat plant performance.
- WEARS registration is a valuable point of differentiation for advisers in the market.
- Participation in a quality assurance regime that is cost effective.
- Promotional benefits from being listed on the WEARS web-site (see [list of registered advisers](#)).

Promotional benefits from customer listings on the [Bioenergy Facilities Directory](#).

## How to apply

Information about the process of registration and the application form can be found here <https://www.usewoodfuel.org.nz/registered-wood-energy-advisors>

## Maintaining registration

Advisers registered under the Scheme must renew their registration status annually.

## Consumer benefits

The right fuel for specific combustion equipment is a key consideration for anyone operating a biomass boiler or wood burning stove. Poor quality or the wrong type of fuel is one of the main causes of faults, chimney fires, air quality issues and breakdowns. A competent adviser will know how to have the right fuel and right equipment for the best performance. A number of advisers who have lots of experience of designing coal fuelled plant don't understand that biomass fuel has very different storage, handling and combustion characteristics and they follow coal standards which are not appropriate for biomass fuelled plant. The consequence is that plant owners have to do a lot of equipment modification to get plant operating optimally.

The purpose of the WEARS registration scheme is to give customer confidence by providing a recognised quality assurance for design and optimisation of biomass energy heating equipment.

The WEARS is practical and straightforward to implement which means we are keeping consumer costs low. That said, the Scheme operates to a rigorous and thorough methodology.

When a customer obtains advice from a WEARS registered adviser they will obtain confidence of the following:

- The fuel will be appropriate for the boiler and ancillary equipment, ensuring optimal boiler operation.
- The equipment will be appropriate for biomass fuel storage, handling and combustion for your boiler to work at optimum efficiency.
- It provides a guarantee that the fuel and equipment you buy meets recognised standards and fulfils the required specification for your application, securing your warranty.

Buying from a registered adviser means that you will have fewer issues with your boiler or stove, your appliance will run more efficiently, with reduced reliance upon back-up systems.

## Making a complaint

In the unlikely event that issues about fuel quality, stove or boiler operation should arise then we would like to know. The Scheme Administrator can offer advice to help resolve the problem. In a worst case situation a formal complaint can be referred to the association's [Professional Standards and Complaints Committee](#).

Our aim is to give customers peace of mind. We look forward to hearing your view and experiences. Contact us at [admin@bioenergy.org.nz](mailto:admin@bioenergy.org.nz).

## How to become registered

Information on registration is available in the Scheme Guidance Document and in the application form, found here [www.usewoodfuel.org.nz/registered-wood-energy-advisors](http://www.usewoodfuel.org.nz/registered-wood-energy-advisors).

## Adviser continuing professional development

To assist members become eligible to become Registered Advisers the Bioenergy Association hosts a number of “training” courses and webinars throughout the year. These will contribute continuing professional development credits for advisers so that they can maintain their registration. To ensure a good breadth of topics and views are discussed at these events a wide range of different presenters are used. This will ensure that there is a good knowledge about different equipment and methods held by the Advisers. In addition the site visits programme allows potential advisers to get hands on experience of actual applications.

The webinars and site visit programmes complement the conference/workshop programme which also contributes to continuing professional development credits.

## Making a complaint

As an accreditation scheme it is important that we are aware of the experiences of wood fuel customers. In the unlikely event that issues arise about the work of a Registered Wood Energy Adviser then the scheme administrator should be advised. The Scheme Administrator may be able to offer advice to help resolve the problem or a formal complaint can be received.

Details of the policies and procedures for making complaints are available [here](#).

## Contact us

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