

Bioenergy Association

Wood Energy Short Courses

Curriculum Overview

1. Introduction

Wood energy short courses are for wood fuel suppliers, wood energy advisers and wood fuelled heat plant facility owners. The courses are suitable for harvest crews through to facility managers.

The courses are generally at level 4 but require no prerequisite training unless specifically noted. All courses require prior reading followed by a one or two day duration practical module requiring attendance at Waiariki Institute of Technology. Student assessment is at the end of the prior reading segment and at the conclusion of the practical module. Students are required to have passed the prior reading assessment in order to attend the practical module (this assessment is to ensure that those attending the practical module have read all the material before they attend).

Successful attendance of short courses will contribute to Continuing Professional Development which is a requirement of the various Bioenergy Association sector accreditation schemes.

Short courses WE1, WE2 and WE6 will be available from June 2015.

2. Suite of short courses under development

a) Short course WE1: Wood Fuel supply

The course will cover the methods of producing wood fuel from harvest residues, fuel classification, fuel grading and verification of the fuel characteristics when delivered. (1 day practical module)

b) Short course WE2: Contracting for the sale of wood fuel

Prerequisite – Wood Fuel Supply Short Course (WE1)

The course will cover the preparation, storage and delivery of wood fuel. The Model Wood Fuel Sale and Purchase contract. Pricing based on fuel grading. (1 day practical module)

c) Short course WE3: Design concepts for wood fuelled heat plant

Prerequisite – Wood Fuel Supply Short Course (WE1)
Engineering degree (or equivalent)

The course will cover the principles of the design of wood energy plant. Reference will be made to the differences between coal and wood fuelled heat plant operation. (2 day practical module)

d) Short course WE4: Optimisation of the use of wood fuel in existing coal fired heating plant.

Prerequisite – Wood Fuel Supply Short Course (WE1)
Engineering degree (or equivalent)

The course will cover the principles of wood fuelled heat plant and how they differ from coal fuelled plant. The techniques for processing wood fuel suitable for co-firing. (1 day practical module).

e) Short course WE5: purchasing and operating a wood fuelled heat plant.

Prerequisite – WE1: Wood Fuel Supply Short Course
WE2: Contracting for the sale of wood fuel

The course is principally for heat plant owners and operators and will cover tending for design and supply of wood fuelled heat plant. The operation of wood fuelled heat plant. Co-firing of coal and wood fuel. (1 day practical module)

f) Short course WE6: Small scale wood fuelled heat plant operation

This course is principally for the operators of school scale wood fuelled heat plant. The course is aimed at school caretakers etc who are required to operate a school heating system safely and efficiently. The course is aimed at assisting schools meet health and safety requirements. (Half day practical module).

3. Course fees

Fees for courses (1 & 2 day practical modules) in 2015 will be \$390 incl GST for Association members and \$490 incl GST for non members (based on a minimum attendance of 15 students per course). Costs cover distribution of reading material, tuition fees, lunch and refreshments during each day of the practical module. Fees for half day course will be \$220 incl GST for Association members and \$300 incl GST for non members.

A minimum number of 15 attendees is required to be enrolled for each practical module.

A limited number of scholarships covering a portion of attendance fees will be available from time to time. The number of these which is available at any time will vary according to the number of sponsors involved with the courses. Criteria for receipt of a scholarship is under development.

4. Tuition

The tuition will be undertaken by a range of appropriately experienced sector practitioners.

5. Certificates

Successful attendees will receive a Certificate of Competency jointly from the Waiariki Institution of Technology and the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand.

6. Applications

Application forms are available from the UsewoodfuelNZ website www.usewoodfuel.org.nz

7. Practical module dates for 2015