

## How New Zealand's abundant wood energy resource can help gas users remain competitive

**Rob Mallinson**

Convenor of the Wood Energy Interest Group  
of the Bioenergy Association

**2.00pm (NZST) on 23 June 2026**  
**10.00am (AWST), 11.30am (ACST),**  
**12noon (AEST),**

### About the webinar:

Natural Gas availability in New Zealand is declining rapidly, creating an urgent need for commercial and industrial heat users to assess alternative energy options and make informed investment decisions.

This webinar will compare the capital (Capex) and operating (Opex) costs of industrial process heat generated from biomass ('wood energy' or 'bioHeat') against electricity and natural gas/LPG. The analysis demonstrates that the annual operating cost of bioHeat is typically less than half that of a gas boiler. Attendees will be guided through these comparisons step-by-step.

Indicative capital costs for a range of boiler sizes will also be presented, enabling attendees to quickly assess likely payback periods, net present value (**Payback**), and net present value (**NPV**) and internal rate of return (**IRR**) for biomass heat projects.

The webinar will also examine biomass availability and pricing in New Zealand. Currently, New Zealand exports around **140 million gigajoules** of biomass annually in the form of export logs, highlighting the scale of the country's biomass resource.

Finally, the webinar will explore the strategic importance of maintaining a broad and resilient energy mix for New Zealand's long-term energy security and economic stability.

The Bioenergy Association invites all interested parties to attend this webinar, followed by an interactive Q&A session with opportunities for discussion and input.



Rob has been a Board member of the Bioenergy Association since its establishment in 2001 and currently convenes the Association's Wood Energy Interest Group.

Through his company, Living Energy, Rob has led the supply and installation of more than 30 biomass boilers ranging from 100kW to 23MW, including the first packaged biomass boiler installations for hospitals, swimming pools and schools around New Zealand.

With around 40 biomass boiler manufacturers now represented in New Zealand, Living Energy no longer operates as a boiler supplier. Instead, the company focuses on supporting large heat users in their transition to biomass energy, providing expertise in fuel supply, fuel storage systems and fit-for-purpose wood boiler solutions.

**Use the following link to register for the webinar:**

[Webinar Zoom link here >>](#)

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** - The Bioenergy Association supports members by providing opportunities such as this webinar that contributes towards CPD and maintaining registration as a Biogas Adviser. Contact the [Executive Officer](#) for more details.

Attendance is **FREE** and open to the public  
courtesy of EECA.