Rural Economy Growth Review

Green Growth – Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund & Forestry

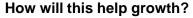
What are we doing to deliver "Green Growth"?

The Government is committed to promoting Green Growth by moving the economy to a sustainable, long term footing, where the economic value of the environment, its "natural capital", is recognised and realised, and the natural environment and biodiversity are protected and enhanced. Building on the Natural Environment White Paper (2011), the Rural Economy Growth Review recognises the potential of natural resources in rural areas and contributes directly to Green Growth by:

Launching a £15m Rural Community
Renewable Energy Fund to help
communities meet the upfront cost of
developing renewable energy projects. It
will provide loans to help rural
communities undertake the early feasibility
and planning work necessary to develop
viable renewable energy schemes in which
the private sector is willing to invest. The
communities will repay the loans so that
the money can be recycled to support
other community schemes. This is an
efficient and effective way of using public
money and will enable up to 150
community schemes to be developed over

the next 4 years. Details of the fund will be published in due course.

• The Forestry Skills initiative will fund the training of up to 45 new entrants to the forestry sector. Whilst new entrants will be in paid forestry apprenticeships, this initiative will support their training costs, up to £270,000 in total. Detailed arrangements are being developed by the Forestry Commission who – working with the partners to the Forestry Skills Action Plan – will publicise arrangements once these are available.



The Renewable Energy Fund will support jobs in the manufacture, construction and maintenance sectors, and unlock investment amongst private developers. The Fund will also contribute to the Government's renewable energy targets. The Forestry skills initiative will support the forestry sector by enabling private companies to help take on 45 new workers by removing the barrier of the cost of training.



Useful Links

- DECC
- Forestry Commission Skills Action

<u>Plan</u>

• The Scottish Government

