



Talbot's Heating LTD based in Stafford have assisted a number of companies in receiving these 'interest free' loans for the installation of their energy saving technology.

ACTION ENERGY

Case Study: South West Joinery Co.

Designed as a government-backed initiative to encourage the take-up of energy-saving technologies by small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), Action Energy, a scheme forming part of the Carbon Trust, a national organisation dedicated to reducing CO2 emissions-levels in the UK, offers a range of completely free products and services to help both private businesses and public-sector organisations to save energy and reduce costs. In addition to energy audits, surveys and professional advice on energy-efficient building design, Action Energy can also provide tax-breaks and interest-free loans of between £5000 and £50,000 enabling SMEs to invest in energy-saving systems and equipment

Originally founded in 1919 and re-named in 1936 as the South West Joinery Company, the long established, Gloucester based SWJ Group is a leading manufacturer of custom-designed joinery and furniture for the highest-quality commercial and public building interiors. In addition to products for luxury hotels, lawcourts and other high-profile applications, the company has also recently supplied bespoke furniture for use in the new Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh.



Although the company's former factory heating system was fuelled entirely by wood waste in the form of off-cuts, the 1million BTU output was produced by a highly inefficient and obsolescent twin-boiler system in urgent need of replacement. Taking advantage of the Action Energy loan scheme for SMEs, the company has now replaced the twin boilers with a single, fully-automatic Talbot's TM/A warm air heating system. Rated at 1.0 million BTU/hour (300kW/hr), the new waste-to-energy combustion unit is designed to burn sawdust, shavings, MDF and MFC woodchips, together with shredded solid timber off-cuts. Wood wastes are held in a hopper and fed to the combustor by an automatic transfer system, providing high efficiency, low cost warm air heating for the whole of the 35,000 square feet of production areas.

The increasing need for energy-users throughout the UK to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, cut greenhouse gas emissions and increase the efficient use of sustainable and renewable energy technologies, is creating a new impetus in the use of biomass-fuelled waste-to-energy systems. The escalating costs of landfill and incineration together with local objections related to these schemes are also key factors. The on-site clean combustion of wood waste products as a sustainable means of producing energy is continuing to provide the most cost effective solution for an increasing number of companies of every size. The only truly carbon-neutral option currently available to businesses within the timber processing industries, wood waste-fuelled systems will continue to offer a green, clean, energy-efficient solution, providing a competitive edge in an increasingly environmentally-conscious and commercially competitive climate.