



ACTION ENERGY

Case Study: Tyler Hardwoods

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Originally established in 1991 as a specialist timber merchant and importer, Tyler Hardwoods Ltd based at Shalbourne in rural Wiltshire has installed a Talbott T150 wood waste to energy system to provide heat for the factory. The company employs six staff and has an annual turnover of around £1.0 million. They are not only a stockist and supplier of specialist and imported hardwoods, but is now increasingly involved in the production of high quality hardwood mouldings and other machined timber products and components. These are supplied by the company to high-quality furniture manufacturers as well as for applications in the joinery, building and construction industries.



The growth in the market for machined products manufactured by Tyler Hardwoods has led to a significant increase by the company in the installation and use of a variety of woodworking machinery. This in turn created the need to refurbish and up-grade the existing production facilities, including a requirement for space heating throughout the machine-shop, which was originally only used infrequently and had no permanently-installed heating system. Due to its rural location, the site does not have access to mains gas, the conventional alternative options for heating systems being either oil-fired or electrical. The new focus on machining and production also created the need to dispose of an increasing volume of wood waste, forcing the company to arrange for around two large trailer-loads to be removed each week for eventual disposal by a local farmer.



With financial assistance in the form of an interest-free loan under the Action Energy scheme, the company purchased and installed the Talbott's T150 wood waste-fired, warm air heating unit, designed, manufactured and supplied by Stafford-based biomass & waste-to-energy specialists, Talbott's Heating. Part of Talbott's hand-fed T Range which remains one of the most popular types of wood-burning heaters, the T150 is designed for the clean combustion of wood offcuts, particle board, softwoods and pallets. This provides an output of 170,000 BTU/hour (50 kW/hr), more than sufficient to heat the entire working area within the Tyler

Hardwoods' machine-shop. In addition to off cuts and solid wood waste, the company also fuels the heating unit with compressed wood-dust briquettes produced on-site, reducing the dust volume by some 90 per cent and providing a convenient fuel at virtually no additional cost.

Managing director Mr Geoff Tyler says that not only does the wood waste produced by the company provide the total fuel requirement for the Talbott's warm air heating system, but surplus dust-briquettes are a highly-saleable commodity, marketed for local domestic use. Following the 4-year payback time for the Action Energy loan, the new space heating system, which is currently giving very significant savings on both energy and waste disposal costs, is expected to reduce energy costs by up to £6000 per year.