



The Energy Crops Scheme 2007 - 2013

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East of England

Supported Crops - Short Rotation Coppice (SRC)

- Mostly willow or poplar from specified varieties
- First year growth cut to encourage multiple stem growth
- First crop 4 years after planting
- Crop can be taken every three years for around 25 years
- Other traditional species e.g. hazel, sweet chestnut, ash, alder, silver birch, sycamore and lime also supported - longer rotation



Supported Crops - Miscanthus



- Grows from a rhizome
- Harvested annually from second year after planting
- Productive for at least 15-20 years
- Maximum height 2.5-3.5m
- See “Planting and Growing Miscanthus and Short Rotation Coppice” booklets on the Natural England website



- 5 year agreement
- Minimum area of 3ha in total with 0.5ha minimum plot size
- Enter all eligible land in one agreement – phase planting over 3 years so agreement can run to 8 years.
- Land must be RLR registered
- Potential impacts on designated areas e.g. SSSI, SM, NNR etc will be assessed
- Must have an energy end-use – can be for own use, e.g. heat own home/business but must demonstrate capacity to do so

- Apply any time of year but can take 3-4 months to process
- Cannot guarantee approval if received after 30 September for next planting season
- Need to provide additional information, e.g. maps, evidence of use, evidence of consultation with e.g. neighbours, utilities, other public bodies
- Applications for SRC are subject to Forestry EIA. If planting miscanthus on permanent pasture may be subject to EIA Agriculture Regulations
- Download application form etc at Natural England website at www.naturalengland.org.uk

Establishment grant rates

- SRC: 50% of establishment costs c.£1,700 (c.£850 per ha)
- Miscanthus: 50% of establishment costs c.£2,300 (c.£1150 per ha)
- Will need to factor in pest control and herbicides



What will the scheme achieve?



- Up to 60,000ha of land under perennial arable crops
- Approaching 200,000t carbon savings depending on end use

PLUS

- Reduced inputs and nitrate run-off (once established)*
- Soil stabilisation – reduced risk of erosion (once established)
- Increased biodiversity (SRC)*
- Development of stable markets for biomass

*compared with annual arable crops

Additional sources of funding

- Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme for installation of biomass-fuelled heat and CHP projects in industrial, commercial and community premises. Round 6. <http://www.bioenergycapitalgrants.org.uk>
- Woodfuel East (WFE): www.woodfueleast.org.uk
Stores, access tracks and boilers may be covered for SRC
- Some Regional Development Agencies have schemes funding renewable energy development where WFE is not applicable.
EEDA's website: <http://www.eeda.org.uk/rdpe>



Contact details



- Scheme administration at the Worcester office
- Contact ECS Admin Team:
 - ecsqueries@naturalengland.org.uk
 - 01905 362703/4
- Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk/planning/grants-funding/energy-crops/default.htm

Further details on the stand at the back of the room

Environmental Stewardship

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- Environmental Stewardship and the CFE
 - please talk to us at the stand



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