



Renewable opportunities in focus at Farm Energy Event

Despite the Department of Energy and Climate Change slashing the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) subsidies for Solar PV these systems and a wide range of other renewable energy options continue to make good business sense for farmers and landowners.

The Farm Energy Event at the East of England Showground, Peterborough on Tuesday 6th December is the ideal chance to benefit from some sensible, impartial and practical advice about how to employ renewable energy systems to make savings and generate. Moreover, it comes at just the right time for those looking to invest before the end of April 2012 when the existing Feed-In Tariff rates could very well change again.

“There’s no doubt the surprise slashing of the solar PV FiT rates, accompanied by shortening the the previous installation deadline, has shocked the sector,” says Andrew Newbold, of organiser Fusion Events. “But, as visitors to the Farm Energy Event will learn, the savings and income from renewable energy still make it a solid and reliable business investment. But potential energy producers need to act fast to take full advantage of current Feed-In Tariff rates, which as experience shows, could change in a few months’ time.”

As the UK’s only event aimed solely at the agricultural sector, the Farm Energy Event is designed specifically for those looking at farm-scale projects. Alongside the exhibition of equipment and services is a full seminar programme, which is included in the entry price. Here experts will be explaining how farmers and landowners can select the most appropriate system to suit their business, how to finance the various options as well as case studies that run through the actual costs and benefits.

“Generating renewable energy not only saves money and produces additional income, it is also one the few ways a farm business can reduce its carbon footprint - a 50kW system, for example, will cut carbon emissions by about 23t. This is becoming increasingly important for many farms, particularly those dealing with the major multiples and other concerned customers,” adds Mr Newbold.

New this year is an Energy Matters area where visitors are able to have private, one-to-one consultations with industry experts who will be providing advice on selecting the most suitable energy option, how to build a business plan, the opportunities available from the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme and whether your land is a suitable site for a wind turbine.

The ticket price includes free entry to Energy Matters area and the industry-leading seminars. This is a not to be missed event for anybody considering any move into renewable energy, particularly as the deadline for the current Feed-In Tariff rates is approaching fast.

Farm Energy Event Seminars

* A summary of the FIT rates for the main renewable energy options and advice on how farmers can choosing the best and most appropriate for their individual situations.

* A case-study from Stephen Temple, Farmers Weekly’s Green Energy Farmer of the Year 2010, who will be providing hands-on practical advice, along with costs and benefits from his various energy enterprises.

* The facts about installing a farm-scale anaerobic digester, with a case study about the installation at Harper Adams University College and how this offsets the campus carbon emissions by more than three times.

* Damian Baker of RenEnergy will explain how even though the Feed-in Tariff for solar PV has been cut in half, as the capital cost of panels continues to fall in the face of rising fuel prices the systems are still a viable option.

* A move into any form of renewable energy is likely to require some borrowing to fund the investment. A top adviser from Barclays Bank will explain how to put together a strong business plan to secure the necessary loan.

Farm Energy Event Facts

Date: Tuesday 6th December 2011

Venue: Exec Exhibitions Centre
East of England Showground
Peterborough
PE2 6XE

Tickets: £15 on the day or 30% discount for pre-booking on-line at www.farm-smart.co.uk/ukgrain or telephone on 0845 4900 142.

Further details:

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