



15 February 2006

## Biomass drive as Coppice Resources Ltd appointed by Greenergy

- **Long term index linked SRC contracts offered with delivery from mid 2007**
- **Renewable energy market offers secure new revenue stream for farmers**

Coppice Resources Ltd has this week [15 February 2006] been appointed by Greenergy Bioenergy Ltd, a subsidiary of the £1.5 billion turnover fuels business Greenergy International Ltd, to lead marketing of contracts for the supply of Short Rotation Coppice [SRC]. Some 55,000 tonnes of SRC per annum is required for SembCorp Utilities UK's £60 million Wilton 10 biomass power plant on Teesside with first deliveries scheduled for mid 2007.

Farmers and landowners are offered index-linked, long-term supply contracts for SRC. The contracts ensure consistent and secure income from supplying energy crops and offer growers stability in a time of market volatility.

Coppice Resources Ltd is the UK's leading SRC business with more than 14 years of experience in the market. It will be working alongside Renewable Energy from Agriculture [REFA], Greenergy and Sembcorp Utilities UK to promote the commercial benefits of SRC and to secure and manage new contracts.

Mark Paulson, Managing Director of Coppice Resources Ltd said:

"Wilton 10 creates a major new opportunity for the farming community in the North East with a requirement for some 55,000 tonnes of SRC per annum, delivered under long-term contracts with the benefit of index-linked pricing. We look forward to working with the farming community to deliver this opportunity."

Wilton 10 biomass power plant will generate 30MW of electricity, enough to power around 30,000 homes. It is now almost half way through construction and ahead of schedule with the fuel store and fuel handling facilities nearing completion. The plant is scheduled to start generating energy from biomass in mid 2007.

Andrew Owens, chief executive of Greenergy added:

"The rapid growth in demand for renewable energy crops is creating a significant new market for the UK farming community. A market with a secure future driven by our need for secure energy supplies that are price competitive and deliver real environmental benefits.

**More\....**

“Greenergy today has more than 1000 farmers contracted for the supply of 150,000 tonnes of rapeseed for biodiesel production for our plant under construction at Immingham. We look forward to extending our work with the farming community with the signing of new contracts for SRC.”

SembCorp Utilities UK is contracted to buy all SRC for Wilton 10 through Greenergy Bioenergy Ltd.

**CRL will be organising meetings and demonstration days within a 50 mile radius of the plant, to allow potential growers to ask questions, see practical operations such as planting and harvesting and also visit the Wilton 10 site itself to see the power plant taking shape. Interested parties should contact Barbara Hilton on 01904 624948, 07920 203280 or [Barbara.Hilton@coppiceresources.co.uk](mailto:Barbara.Hilton@coppiceresources.co.uk) for further information or visit [www.coppiceresources.co.uk](http://www.coppiceresources.co.uk).**

## **Ends**

For further information, interview, image or comment:

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## **Notes to Editors:**

Coppice Resources Ltd was formed to bring together the expertise of a group of people with a strong belief in the potential that SRC has to become a key agricultural crop. Within CRL is the UK's most concentrated pool of experience and expertise in the commercial growing of SRC. The crop is used to create mixed precision-cut wood chips which have a number of uses ranging from fuel for heat and/or power generation to surfacing for horse gallops.

Short rotation coppice consists of high-yielding varieties of shrub or small tree willows planted at high densities and harvested over a 2 or 3 year harvest cycle. The Osier or basket willow, *Salix viminalis*, native to the UK, is parental stock to many of the varieties used for energy cropping. SRC is a woody, perennial crop, the rootstock remaining in the ground after harvest with new shoots emerging the following spring. A plantation should be viable for up to 30 years before re-planting becomes necessary.

CRL is based at: LS8, Armstrong House, First Avenue, Doncaster Airport, DN9 3GA.