

# Co-op Bank explains why it is supporting the show

**I**n 2007, The Co-operative Bank ring-fenced £400m to finance small-scale renewable energy schemes. It created a specialist renewable finance team with expertise in financial modelling and understanding in the complex processes involved in installation, from planning issues to grid connection.

Since then, it has become a leader in financing small to medium scale (£1m to £25m) renewables schemes.

"We believe that renewable energy provides farmers and landowners with an opportunity to focus on energy generation and we are keen to help

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farmers invest in this new technology," said a spokesman.

"With farming undoubtedly a challenging sector, renewable energy offers the chance to create a valuable alternative income stream. These schemes are also of benefit to the local communities where they are based, providing wealth by keeping money 'locked in' rural economies as opposed

to private investment where it often ends up in the hands of the City.

"As a co-operative, this is firmly in line with our own roots and purpose to help bring positive benefits to society through our business. In addition, these schemes can play a vital role in helping the country meet its ambitious target to cut carbon emissions.

"It is not surprising that we are experiencing interest from the landowner/farming sector from all over the UK wanting to develop projects such as wind, anaerobic digestion and small hydro schemes.

"This is why the bank is happy to support the Energy Now Expo 2011, which will allow farmers and landowners to see all the latest renewable energy developments and technology available, as well as obtain essential advice on the various options open to them.

"We will certainly be happy to talk to anyone who wants to know more." ■



## CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE PRACTICAL ISSUES

The Energy Now Expo 2011 will include a comprehensive two-day conference that will further explore and identify the renewable energy opportunities available to farmers and landowners, as well as highlighting some of the many challenges facing people on the land.

Top speakers, such as Danish pig and

arable farmer and successful biogas plant operator Jens Peter Lunden, will address biogas and all the different technologies, as well as finance, planning, and legal hurdles that could trip up people considering investing in renewable energy, or those who have already invested in new systems.

The other speakers include NNFCC

agriculture manager Lucy Hopwood, planner Adrian Lea, The Co-operative Bank senior manager James Sutcliffe and Countrywide biomass manager Richard Collins.

Most of them will be available to share their knowledge and experience with delegates in question-and-answer sessions during the conference. ■





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## Show puts spotlight on renewable energy opportunities for farmers and landowners

**T**housands of farmers and landowners from across the UK are expected to visit this year's bigger and better Energy Now Expo at the Malvern Showground following the success of the event last year.

Designed particularly to highlight all the renewable energy benefits and opportunities for producers, the two-day show has proved to be extremely popular, highlighting the enormous interest in the generation and use of green power in rural areas, especially on farms and estates.

Organised by the joint venture company Renewable Energy Events Ltd, which includes the popular Energy Now magazine, and sponsored by The Co-operative Bank, this year's event is presented in association with the NFU and the CLA. It will be held at the Malvern Showground on February 16 and 17.

The Expo, which is supported by a variety of associations, including the Three Counties Agricultural Society, the RASE, FWAG, the Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADBA) and the National Non-Food Crops Centre

### RECORD NUMBERS EXPECTED AT BIGGER AND BETTER EVENT



(NNFCC), has attracted a record number of exhibitors this year. It will feature a wide range of suppliers and developers, as well as financial organisations, industry bodies, consultants, training bodies and retailers representing every type of renewable energy.

With exhibitor numbers in excess of 80, Energy Now publisher David

Jacobmeyer says he is confident that there will be something for everybody at the show, with answers for anybody with a query on alternative energy, or other related issues.

They will be able to explain how renewable energy sources work and save money on conventional fuel costs, help producers through the maze of grants and rules surrounding the set up of projects and generally help people understand renewable energy.

"There has been tremendous enthusiasm from commercial suppliers, developers and other related industries for this show, which reflects the ongoing interest in the production and generation of non-fossil fuels in the UK," he said.

"I believe any farmer or landowners who want to find out more about how he or she can benefit from renewable energy, or how to save energy and reduce their carbon footprints should be here on February 16 and 17.

"Energy Now editor Roger Abbott and I and all the other staff on the magazine look forward to meeting our readers at the show this year." ■

