House owners in Hultsfred replaced oil with biomass fuel

More owners of single-family houses than expected took up the offer of replacing their oil-fired boilers with environmentally friendly heating with a pellet-fired or wood-fired boiler. As a result of the conversion, Hultsfred was able to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 1 360 tonnes per year.

With support from the Local Investment Programme (LIP), the owners of single-family houses in the municipality were able to replace their oil-fired boilers with environmentally approved wood-fired boilers with accumulators. Some installed pellet burners or pellet-fired boilers. As many as 136 owners of single-family houses took part in the project that began in 2001 and ended in 2005. The Municipality was also to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions and at the same time reduce the environmental impact of energy use.

The project is a good example of conversion to more environmentally friendly alternative forms of heating being capable of reducing environmental impact and dependence on fossil fuels.

**POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

- Carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 1 360 tonnes/year.
- The switch from home heating oil to renewable energy totals 490 m³/year

136 oil burners were replaced under the measure. 38 oil-fired boilers were replaced by modern wood-fired boilers and 98 oil-fired boilers were replaced by pellet-fired boilers or pellet burners.
IMPLEMENTATION
In many cases the house owners were able to retain their boilers and replace the oil burner with a pellet burner. In some cases the oil-fired boiler was replaced by a pellet-fired boiler. The house owners were able to engage the services of many suppliers who meet the municipality’s requirements. The heating systems had to meet the emissions requirements of the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and be connected to an accumulator volume adapted to the energy needs of the house and one firing time per day. All the pellet equipment was to be P-marked.

The measure also included information efforts and fieldwork to follow up the investments at the house owners. As a result, there was strong public interest in the conversion.

The LIP project is a step along the way to the target of halving the number of homes heated by oil by 2010, and only environmentally approved wood-fired boilers existing in the municipality from 1 January 2011.

POTENTIAL AND FUTURE BENEFIT
Biomass replacing fossil fuels has positive climatic effects. To reach the detached house market, it is important to develop good system solutions that make it simple for property owners to look after the systems. Innovative service concepts and good information efforts can result in faster market acceptance of this type of system.

WHY BEST PRACTICE
Many of the conversions were relatively simple, and the number of replaced oil burners was greater than estimated. The project activated and involved house owners in environmental activity. A knowledgeable and committed consultancy effort led to strong interest among the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact:
Anders Helgée,
Head of Environment and Construction,
Environment and Construction Office
+46 (0)495-24 14 01
anders.helge@hultsfred.se

Contractors/providers:
There are many suppliers for the house owners to choose among.

The project on the Internet:
www.hultsfred.se

Further information on Best Practice
www.swedishepa.se/bestpractice
www.naturvardsverket.se/mir

FACTS
LIP Hultsfred 2001
Action 21 b
Environmental investment: SEK 6.8m
Grant: SEK 2.1m