

Wood-fuelled heating – SS. Peter & Paul Scout Hut, Godalming

Existing or Proposed Project:	EXISTING – commissioned August 2004
Location:	Charterhouse Rd, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2DA
Owner / Developer:	Scout Association
Description:	A heat-only wood-fuelled burner



GODALMING DISTRICT SCOUTS



Background:

SS. Peter and Paul Scout Hut is a listed timber-framed building close by the famous Charterhouse School. The hut is home to the SS. Peter & Paul Scout group, who in 2004 decided to scope out new and economical possibilities to heat the place. After considering the available options they managed to obtain a £7,000 grant from SITA Environmental Trust and £1,500 from Surrey CC/REACH scheme towards a log burner.

This wood stove featured in late 2004 as the cover story in *Surrey Scouting* magazine.

Technology / Scope of Project:

Ashvale Ranges were brought in to supply and install an Efel 'Harmony III' wood stove: this now heats the entire main hall of the hut. This product has a rated maximum heat output of 16kW and can be used either to heat a small boiler for central heating (max. output to boiler 3 – 7.5kW) or directly as a space-heating stove, as in the Scout Hut. The stove's features include temperature control set by the user and a side-loading capability in preference to re-fuelling by opening the front door.

The logs used for fuel, which can be up to 22 inches long, are obtained by the scouts from amongst their own woodland management residue. They fill the stove twice a night, three times per week with a dozen or so medium-sized logs every time.

Importance to the South East:

In Surrey alone there are around 170 scout huts, owned by the respective local scout groups. Operating on average at half-power for 5 hours three times a week, over half the year, the theoretical replacement of electrical heaters in all Surrey huts by similar wood stoves to the one at SS Peter & Paul could displace the emission of nearly 1.5 tonnes CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gases per year for the county.

There are also great financial savings to be made in the medium to long term, especially if the relevant grant schemes are taken advantage of and there is a renewable woodfuel source nearby. Woodlands benefit greatly from having a use for residues, which can help encourage the continued sustainable management of the woods while providing free fuel for the local scout group.

The region's wood burner supply industry could be significantly assisted by a large number of scout halls turning to them for modern, efficient and aesthetically pleasing stoves. There is also an educational aspect, in the opportunity that such biomass installations afford as highly interactive springboards, to learn about the interlinked areas of ecology, energy and woodcraft. The scouts at Godalming already use their stove for firelighting training, and are pleased with the visual appeal of the stove, in addition to the natural comfort it provides on cold evenings.



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