

Biomass Boiler at Lower Wernddu Farm

Jamie's Farm

December 2015

Jamie's Farm work with children from communities from across England. Through a unique residential and follow up programme, Jamie's Farm transforms the lives of vulnerable urban children between the ages of 11-16 by providing a unique combination of 'farming, family and therapy' during an intensive week of living and working on a farm. During their stay, children are involved with the daily running of the farm, enjoying seasonal activities from lambing to hay making, in addition to helping with the preparation of meals, gardening, carpentry, horse care, art and participating in a daily walk. The week is punctuated by 1:1 and group sessions and visiting staff and children are supported by Jamie's Farm staff with the transition back to school, including a full follow-up programme. The environment of the farm has been designed to provide as calm and nurturing space as possible, and our on-site team of staff are committed to creating the loving, holding framework – modelled on a family system – that allows the young people to trust that they can succeed.

After 5 years of operating from our site in Box, Wiltshire, and having worked with over 2,200 children we will now be doubling our impact by running trips from a new site in Hereford. As part of this development we have installed a Navora 50kW biomass boiler which will provide all the space heating and hot water for the site. As well as reducing our environmental impact, the boiler provides fantastic related activities for the children in the form of coppicing work and log chopping. This is a wonderful way of educating children about the benefits of using renewable energy and of building a stronger connection with the value of energy. These activities also help to boost self-esteem through showing children that if they work hard at things they can achieve positive results, with split wood and hot water being very tangible outcomes.

The charity as a whole will also benefit from the cost saving as a result of avoiding using oil and from the receipt of the Renewable Heat Incentive. This money will go directly towards enabling more disadvantaged children to benefit from a transformative stay at Jamie's Farm in the future. Thank you to Naturesave Trust for their support in helping to make this happen!

