

CLIMATE CHANGE

THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY?

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Colin Bowers is production director of Phoenix Fuels, the Nottinghamshire-based group which has developed its own British-made biofuel.

This year Wrights Farming Register is inviting representatives of the farming, conservation and biofuels industries to share their views of the challenges that climate change presents. This month Colin Bowers of Phoenix Fuels explains how oilseed rape can help to keep the home fires burning.

BREATHING FIRE INTO GREEN ENERGY


www.greendragonfuel.co.uk

PHOENIX Fuels is a group of fresh vegetable, cereal and oilseed producers who first began developing British-made biofuels when they realised they could do more to create and supply their own green energy.

Their cyclical model of sustainability has led to the production of a biofuel, used for commercial transportation and everyday cars, and a solid rapeseed fuel, Green Dragon Fuel, that burns three times longer than wood and gives off twice the heat.

Launched this summer, Green Dragon Fuel is the only rapeseed fuel available in briquette form in the UK. It's a proven environmentally friendly alternative to both wood and coal and is suitable for all solid fuel burning appliances including boilers, stoves and open fires.

Green Dragon Fuel is made using the solid co-product of the cold oilseed crushing process and ensures that all of the rapeseed plant is used to its full potential.

Phoenix Fuels' production director Colin Bower explained: "Green Dragon Fuel is the result of a carefully thought out cyclical and sustainable farming model which uses all of the oilseed rape co-products. We are the first producers in the UK to

make the rape meal in a briquette form. The meal is the solid left after expressing the oil from the seed during our cold crush process.

"Green Dragon Fuel is suitable for everyone with solid fuel appliances – it's original and unique and is

our contribution to the type of future we would like to see for both farming and the environment."

The Green Dragon Fuel launch follows the NFU's confirmation in mid-April that we can draw a clear distinction between biofuels produced to the "The British Model" and biofuels produced across the globe, which can endanger precious environments.

National Farmers Union president Peter Kendall said: "There is a world of difference between biofuels grown on cleared rain-forest and then transported halfway across the globe and those grown sustainably here in Britain.

"People can use biofuels produced to the British model with a clear conscience, knowing they are doing their bit for the environment – and I urge them to do so."

For more information about Phoenix Fuels and its cyclical model of sustainability, Green Dragon Fuel and dates of 2008 exhibition attendance please visit www.greendragonfuel.co.uk



From field to fire: the environmentally friendly solid fuel alternative.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD FOR EPIC CENTRE

LINCOLNSHIRE Agricultural Society's EPIC Centre, the UK's largest purpose-built green events centre, scooped a major environmental award even before its official launch at the county show.

The EPIC Project at the Lincolnshire Showground won the Business Category of the Lincolnshire Environmental Awards fighting off strong competition from the Envirobarns holiday homes at Fishtoft, near Boston.

EPIC Project Director Dr Nick Cheffins, who delivered the winning presentation to the judging panel, commented: "This is a fantastic result for the EPIC Project. RG Carter Construction Ltd has brought this ambitious £7-million build to a successful conclusion in just 12 months, but the judging panel recognised the hard work, over around five years, that has been invested by the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society and their associates to turn this

Herb could provide green alternative

THE humble rosemary plant could revolutionise the way that some oil-based products are made, providing a 'green' alternative to synthetics and fossil fuels.

Research scientists at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in Cambridge have joined a group of leading industry and research partners to determine the feasibility of using the environmentally friendly

operative Retail; Croda International; Frontier Agriculture; Horticultural Development Council; Industrial Copolymers; Lubrizol and Uponor Housing Solutions Limited.

The pioneering NIAB research, which started in February and will run for 30 months, is being led by leading genetic scientist Dr Lydia Smith. It will be of special interest to UK farmers because there is evidence to suggest

