

Garden centre has faith in 'efficient' rape meal-based fuel log

Green Dragon hopes to fire the future

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AS oil prices soar and the credit crunch continues, people are looking for cheaper, greener, more efficient fuels.

And one local garden centre thinks it may have found one solution.

Millstone Garden Centre, in Waltham, has launched Green Dragon Fuel, the UK's only rape meal-based fuel log.

Used as an alternative to wood or coal, the rape meal logs – a co-product of rape seed oil production – burn up to three times longer than wood and give off twice the heat.

● **Ryan Wignall, assistant manager of the garden centre, warms his hands over a rape meal fuel log.**

Plus, they can be used in all solid-fuel burning appliances, including boilers, multi-fuel stoves and open fires.

Tom Rutherford, owner of Millstone, said it was crucial people were able to use by-products from farming in order to help the environment.

Mr Rutherford said: "This is a waste product from extracting oil from rape seed and it means that it is another by-product that is perfect for cutting carbon emissions."

Mr Rutherford, who's centre has exclusive rights to sell the fuel in our



region, said he believed it would sell successfully.

He said: "I am pretty certain that it will, once people have used it and found its value and discovered that it is a by-product."

The new logs have been developed by Nottinghamshire-based farm company Phoenix Fuels.

Colin Bower, the company's production director, said: "We are the first producers in the UK to make the rape meal in a log form."

"The meal is the solid left after

expressing the oil from the seed during our cold crush process.

"It 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 farming and the environment."

Millstone Garden Centre is running a Green Dragon Fuel launch competition until the end of September 2008.

All purchases of Green Dragon Fuel will include entry into a competition for three customers to win four boxes of Green Dragon Fuel – more than one month's domestic-use supply.