

# CASE STUDY 11 - BUSINESS WITH BIOMASS BOILER

## Bethesda Milk, Bethesda

Just after the Gibby family bought their beef farm in Bethesda 14 years ago, the BSE crisis hit, and the beef prices fell. As a result they decided to go organic as organic beef prices were a lot higher. However the conversion to become organic has taken five years, too long for the business to wait, so the beef herd was sold off and an organic dairy herd took their place.



Unfortunately six years ago organic milk prices also fell and the demand from the large dairies decreased rapidly. Business didn't go well until they stopped producing organic milk and started selling ordinary milk to local shops.

Finally business took off and has grown in the last five years from bottling 50Litres a day to just over 3000Litres now. Although not labelled organic, the farm and dairy uses mainly organic principles, and animal welfare is second to none.

Today seven people are employed to supply milk and dairy products to most of Pembrokeshire and parts of Carmarthenshire, and 20 schools get their daily milk supplied by the company. Bethesda Milk now buys in milk from some of the other local small farms, and the output is increasing yearly.

### WHY INSTALL A BIOMASS BOILER?

Bethesda Milk is a member of Green Dragon, the Environmental Standard for Business, and they wished to become Greener and reduce their carbon footprint. As well as this gas prices were increasing rapidly. They were using a 47k gas bottle every day, which, 2 years ago, cost £33.

So when the Gibbys built their new dairy in 2006 they decided to install a biomass boiler. They contacted Paul Ratcliffe from Pembrokeshire Bioenergy who helped to install a 110kw Bio-Comfort boiler system with pellet store and piping. Pellets are supplied by Pembrokeshire Bioenergy and approximately 1 tonne per week is used.



*The dairy which uses heat from the Biomass Boiler*



