

## **National Trust Press Release**

16 November 2009

**Photo opportunity: 20 November, 11.30 – 12.30, Scotney Castle, TN3 8JN**

### **Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to visit Scotney biomass project**

Greg Clark, MP for Tunbridge Wells and Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, is due to visit the recently installed biomass boiler at Scotney Castle, in Lamberhurst Kent, on Friday 20 November.

The biomass boiler was installed at the National Trust property earlier this year as a low-carbon solution for heating the new visitor reception, shop and tearoom. There are plans to extend its use to other parts of the property in the future. It is one of many steps the charity is taking to prepare for the impact of climate change on its properties and landscapes.

Figures announced earlier this year by Defra and the UK Climate Impacts Programme revealed that the UK is currently on an emissions course that could result in a 2.5\_C - 4.2\_C rise in mean summer temperatures, with a staggering 40% decrease in levels of summer rainfall predicted for southern areas by 2080. These anticipated changes represent a massive challenge to all sectors of society, business and industry and have a huge impact on the work of the National Trust.

The biomass boiler at Scotney has replaced an oil-fired one, which will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the property.

Warden Ross Wingfield explains: "It runs by burning locally sourced woodchip from coppiced trees, a process which is 95% carbon neutral. This means that most of the carbon dioxide released when the wood is burned is absorbed by the growing coppice."

This year the team at Scotney have been using wood from a nearby estate, but they are also harvesting it from Scotney's own estate for use next year.

Ross continues: "Switching to biomass will have many positive effects for us. Not only is it a low carbon option, it is also a more sustainable one. Using locally sourced wood keeps the carbon footprint down, and harvesting wood from our own estate also benefits our nature conservation work."

**Ends**