



Ready for action!

That's the Fuel Handling Team at SembCorp's £60 million Wilton 10 biomass power station as the plant prepares to burn its first wood as part of the commissioning process.

The 21-strong team has been formed out of SembCorp's former Transport department and has undergone extensive training in processing the 300,000 tonnes of wood that will pass through the plant each year as fuel.

All the logs arriving are ready to be chipped in a specialist machine in the fuel handling area and will be from managed forests in the north. However, recycled wood, sawmill offcuts and fast growing willow coppice will also be used at the station.

All four sources of wood will be mixed in carefully controlled proportions ready for feeding into the boiler, creating the steam to drive a turbine which generates the electricity.

The plant will generate around 30 MW of electricity from the renewable fuel source when it begins full commercial production in the summer.

A fleet of five specialised wood moving machines, each weighing 25 tonnes, has been obtained by the business and the team has passed a series of proficiency tests in their operation since the start of the year.

Richard Murray, SembCorp's Fuel Handling Manager, said: "With such large vehicles and so much wood arriving on site, safety has to be the absolute top priority for everyone working here. For that reason access for other visitors will be restricted

"The team has been properly trained and we're all excited about the prospect of being the driving force behind the production of this renewable energy."

**- ends**