

**Businesses can apply to multi-million pound tree planting project to help fight climate change**

20 April 2020

A MULTI-MILLION pound government-backed scheme to see more trees planted as part of a woodland creation scheme has been backed by Southport MP Damien Moore.

The Forestry Commission has announced that £10million will be available in the second auction of the Woodland Carbon Guarantee. Those who want to get involved need to sign up to the scheme by June 5, ahead of the next auction which will take place online from June 8 to June 19.

Launched in November 2019, the Woodland Carbon Guarantee is a £50million scheme that aims to help accelerate woodland planting rates and permanently remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Successful participants will be offered the option to sell Woodland Carbon Units to the government over 35 years at a guaranteed price set by auction and protected against inflation, providing new income for land managers who help businesses compensate for their carbon emissions.

This announcement follows the success of the first auction which closed in February 2020 and saw 18 contracts offered by the Forestry Commission to help stimulate the creation of 182 hectares of new woodland, specifically to help combat climate change.

Southport MP Damien Moore said: "Encouraging the planting of more trees to create new woods is not only good for our fantastic wildlife, it also helps the atmosphere.

"We have some great land here in Southport and I would encourage owners to get involved with this scheme, which will benefit everyone."

Sir William Worsley, Chair of the Forestry Commission, said: "The Woodland Carbon Guarantee is the first scheme of its kind to provide land managers with long-term certainty of a guaranteed payment rate for carbon, which their trees lock up and store.

"I'm excited to announce that the first auction has successfully encouraged projects in parts of the country where new planting has been lower in recent years, and across a good range of woodland types. There is no reason to delay applying and to plant trees now - I strongly encourage all land managers thinking about planting to sign up ahead of the second auction in June."

The outcome of the first exploratory auction in February paves the way for larger scale projects to secure funding in forthcoming auctions. A series of auctions will take place every six months for up to five years.

You can apply at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-carbon-guarantee>

The announcement comes just days after Sir William Worsley, spoke about the importance of maintaining the timber industry for its essential role in supply chains during the coronavirus lockdown.

He believes that keeping the timber industry operating is important because it produces items such as pallets that are vital to be able to transport goods such as food to shops and medicines, as well as fuel for homes and businesses.

While the government has asked people to work from home where they can, those whose livelihoods involve working in forests in the timber sector are designated key workers due to their role in helping people have food on their plates and their home heated.

The North West and West Midlands Forest Services Team says it is continuing to work for and with the forest sector. Since January the regional team has considered and approved:

- 149 felling licences across the North West and West Midlands and it is working on another 66 with applicants

- 38 Woodland Management Plans totalling more than 2,100ha and a further 35 Plans covering 2,250ha of woodland are under assessment with applicants

- Seven woodland creation schemes totalling 146ha and a further seven schemes totalling 65ha are being worked on

Alongside this the North West and West Midlands regional team continues to support strategic approaches to more woodland creation, such as the Northern and Community Forests. The team is also investigating 54 alleged illegal felling cases.

Source: [https://www.champnews.com/story.asp?id=GN4\\_ART\\_1670685](https://www.champnews.com/story.asp?id=GN4_ART_1670685)