

COFORD Forestry and Wood Update

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Edited by: Joe O’Carroll, Research Manager

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## Overview of COFORD Activities

During October COFORD launched a Call for Proposals for five desk studies:

1. **Identification of Costs Associated with Forest Certification:**
2. **Factors influencing farmer participation in forestry:**
3. **Strategies to enable economically viable wood-biomass energy generation:**
4. **Quantification of recycled wood waste that could be made available for energy production and other uses:**
5. **Review of market opportunities for non-wood forest products:**

Scoping documents and application forms for these desk studies are still available from the COFORD website. Please note that the deadline for receipt of tenders is FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd.

 An advertisement for two new vacancies within COFORD appeared in national newspapers last week. The closing date for receipt of application forms in November 9th. It is hoped that the new recruits will commence work with COFORD at the beginning of January, 2002. Application forms and job descriptions are available on our website.

**The circulation of this newsletter is increasing at a rate of two per day, and now stands at just under 1,000**. We continue to receive feedback on the contents and layout of this newsletter. Comments are always welcome by dropping a note to info@coford.ie. Anyone wishing to be added to the circulation list should visit <http://www.coford.ie/frames/newsletter.html> and enter their details. Back issues of the newsletter are available to download at: <http://www.coford.ie/newsletter/issues.html>

## Project Updates

### BIOFOREST

The BIOFOREST project aims to address some of the gaps that exist in the current information on biodiversity in Irish plantation forestry. It is a multidisciplinary project that involves research on botanical, invertebrate and ornithological aspects of commercial forests in Ireland.

Between June and August 2001, fieldwork was carried out in 32 stands of three forest types: pure Sitka spruce, pure ash, and non-intimate Sitka/ash mixes. The forests sampled ranged from thicket age to commercial maturity and fieldwork was designed to assess the biodiversity of these forests. To date, 102 vascular plant species and 59 bryophyte species have been identified from all the forest types and the identification work is ongoing. The invertebrate fauna surveyed included butterflies, moths, hoverflies and spiders. Identification is ongoing for these groups. Fifty-five species of birds were recorded during the ornithological surveys. The identification of invertebrates and bryophytes will occupy much of the team’s time for the coming months.

Certain data from a number of sites have already been entered into a GIS database (using Arc View). All biological data will be entered once identification is completed. The use of a GIS database will allow for easy dissemination of results at the end of the project and also provide an invaluable tool for forest managers.

Current work for the team involves a review of the best methods used to assess the biodiversity of sites planned for afforestation. The team is evaluating current practice in Ireland as well as overseas. Another review is also being carried out on the current state of biodiversity knowledge on the main habitats used for afforestation in Ireland.

Sites are now being sought for next year’s fieldwork. This fieldwork will assess the biodiversity of habitats **before** they are afforested. **The team is looking for sites that are to be afforested from September 2002 onwards, so that fieldwork can be carried out between April and August 2002**. Again, the flora, invertebrate and bird fauna of these sites will be investigated using similar methods to this year’s work (see COFORD newsletter, <http://www.coford.ie/newsletter/No6_September_2001.htm>). Some of these sites will be tracked and resurveyed in the following years to monitor the changes associated with planting of trees in these habitats. The habitats being targeted are wet grassland, dry-humid acid grassland, peatland habitats, heathland and improved grassland. Ideally, the sites should be greater than 4 ha in size. The only criteria are that the sites are to be planted in one year’s time, with a sufficient lead-time to allow fieldwork to be carried out, and that monitoring can be repeated at the sites over the next two-three years. Farm-partnership plantations are ideal for this project. Anybody with a site that may be suitable for the BIOFOREST project is asked to contact Anne-Marie McKee at 01 6083740 or mckeeam@tcd.ie. This project has been endorsed by the Forest Service to ensure that no disruption will occur to the afforestation grant application process.

### BOGFOR

Florence Renou, Project Manager of BOGFOR reports that the third and last BOGFOR field day of the year took place on 3 October 2001. Members of Coillte, Bord na Móna, the Forest Ecosystem Research Group and COFORD visited several experimental and demonstration sites within the Emo Forest (Co. Offaly). Useful discussion ensued regarding the planning of new demonstration areas. Proposals will be considered at the next Project Management Team meeting at the end of November. A survey assessing the level of late-frost damage has been completed and a report is due at the end of this year. Analysis of the data collected from temperature data loggers over the last two years and environmental data collected at each site is on-going. Some late spring frosts were recorded this year and already a number of variations are apparent between the sites.

About 100 plots have been examined for vegetation competition. For each plot, plant species present were recorded and a cover value ascribed to each species according to the Braun-Blanquet scale. The vegetation and environmental data available for each plot are being examined using the CANOCO analysis package in order to establish whether there is any correlation between the two.

It is intended to use 22 of the permanent quadrats for a vegetation control experiment trial starting this winter using mechanical and chemical methods.

A campaign of foliar collection across the range of BOGFOR sites is due to commence early in November. The results of the chemical analysis of these foliar samples will generate further information on the nutrition of different species planted on cutaway peatlands and the possible need for re-fertilisation. A series of soil analyses will also take place where sites present difficulties.

Climatic conditions were suitable to complete the cultivation of a new 11 ha site. The site will be assessed during the winter and spring with a view to planting at the end of next year.

### ContinuCover

Work on this project, to evaluate the potential for continuous forest cover in Ireland, commenced in September with the process of selecting suitable sites for both experimental and demonstration purposes. Three stands are to be selected including one stand of Sitka spruce, one stand of Scots pine and one larch stand. The requirements are that the three stands should be: at least 25 years of age; greater than 16 ha; located on sites of low windthrow hazard. The Coillte stand database is currently being examined and suitable stands being visited. A site in private ownership will also be included. Once a number of potential stands have been identified, Dr Bill Mason, (Forestry Research, Northern Research Station, Scotland) who is a member of the steering committee, will visit the sites. Harvesting will then commence early next year.

### BIRCH Project

In Finland a 50-year birch tree-breeding programme has resulted in plantations producing high quality birch timber for the commercial market. Due to day-length differences these trees would not be successful in Ireland. This project is part of a long-term effort to produce similar native high quality birch for planting in Ireland. In a previous, COFORD-funded project, Dr Niamh O’ Dowd identified and collected both seed and scion material from phenotypically superior birch. An indoor seed orchard/gene bank was established using grafted material from plus trees. Seed from this material along with collected seed was used to establish field trials for Birch.

Birch field trials were established in March 2001 on three 3 hectare sites, an acid mineral, a basic mineral and a peaty soil. The trials were planted as single tree plots within randomized, incomplete blocks. Two of the three sites are privately owned.

Dr Niamh O’ Dowd has now moved to Science Foundation Ireland as biotechnology Project Manager and COFORD wish her every success with this new career. Dr Linda Williams has now been appointed to manage and run the project. To date all three field trial sites have been mapped. The sites are to be assessed for tree establishment, height and form. These measurements will provide early indications of desirable genotypes providing a basis for the early selection of superior trees. The ultimate objective of the project is to develop a source of quality planting stock suitable for growing in Irish conditions.

### CarbiFor

This is a major interdisciplinary project involving four departments in UCD. The overall objective of the project is to provide data to determine carbon budgets for Sitka spruce forests in Ireland. The project is being led by the Prof Ted Farrell and the project team involves the Department of Environmental Resource Management, Department of Botany, Department of Zoology and the Department of Crop Science, Horticulture and Forestry

Sites for the project have been selected in the Portlaoise area and equipment has been purchased. Postdoctoral and postgraduate researchers have been appointed for specific tasks and it is planned that fieldwork will begin in the new-year.

## New COFORD Projects Commenced

Continuing with our aim to keep all stakeholders of the forest industry updated on research activities, we are pleased to bring you the following information of new projects, details of which are being finalised.

### BroadForm

Work on the shaping of broadleaves has been ongoing since 1992. Teagasc have previously carried out work on this subject under a COFORD-funded project and have produced information on shaping protocols for ash and sycamore. This new project, again awarded to Mike Bulfin at Teagasc, Kinsealy, will expand the work on shaping to include oak and beech. It will also develop much needed protocols for the tending and thinning of broadleaved plantations. Given the every increasing focus on the planting of broadleaves and diverse species, this project is critical to ensure that the full economic sustainability of forestry is realised, in addition to the requirements for social and environmental sustainability.

The project will run for four years. Further details will follow in later issues of *Forestry and Wood Update.*

### QualiBroad

COFORD is funding a major new research project on seed biology and early seedling growth in the nursery in birch, common alder, ash, and pedunculate oak. UCD is carrying out this research in partnership with Coillte. Again the emphasis with this project is on ensuring that the quality of broadleaves planted is of the highest possible standard. The project is quite broad and will cover most aspects of the production of broadleaf nursery stock production. The project will run for five years and has the following objectives:

* develop new seed pretreatments to enhance seed germination and to improve seed storage methods
* determine the optimum temperatures for seed germination
* investigate means of improving seedling growth using cloches, floating mulches, fertilisers and bio-stimulants

The project leader is Dr Conor O’Reilly of the Department of Crop Science, Horticulture and Forestry at UCD. DR O’Reilly is currently seeking to recruit staff for this project – see [Research Vacancies](#_Research_Vacancies_1).

## Research Vacancies

As COFORD continues to fund new projects, vacancies for researchers and post graduates become available. Many positions have been filled to date. Currently the leaders of the following projects are seeking to fill vacancies:

[**QualiBroad**](#_QualiBroad) - **Improving the uniformity and quality of broadleaf planting stock**

Details of this project are given above in the [New Projects](#_New_COFORD_Projects) section

Postgraduate students and/or research assistant(s) are needed to carry out the research. Stipends will be IR£12,000 (€15,237) for Masters or IR£15,000 (€19,046) for PhD students (tax free, including fees). The research assistantship salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Requirements:**

An honours university degree in Forestry, Horticulture, Botany or related discipline.

The successful candidate(s) will be based in UCD Belfield.

Closing date for receipt of applications is: 14 December 2001. Applicants are invited to submit their curriculum vitae to:

Dr Conor O’Reilly
Dept. of Crop Science, Horticulture and Forestry
Faculty of Agriculture
University College Dublin
Belfield
Dublin 4
Ireland
(Email: Conor.oreilly@ucd.ie)

**The Contribution of Forestry to the national and local economies**

The objectives of this research project (which will be funded by COFORD subject to the successful completion of ongoing negotiations) are to evaluate the direct and indirect contribution of forestry to the national economy and to local economies. In addition, the project aims to evaluate a selection of social indicators of sustainable forest management and use these indicators to determine the social contribution of forestry at local level.

The successful candidate will be required to work with a number of economists on the research team using input-output methodologies to determine the economic impacts of forestry at national and local level. A key task for the successful candidate will be to conduct surveys of those involved in the forest industry in Ireland and to evaluate the results. The successful candidate may opt to register for a PhD.

Opportunities for: Post-graduate student or Research Assistant

Proposed PhD scholarship: £15,000 per annum (tax-free); Research Assistant’s salary approx. £20,000 per annum.

Duration: 3 years, January 2002 – December 2004.

Requirements:

* An honours degree in Forestry or in a related discipline. A relevant post-graduate qualification.
* Computer literate in word processing and spreadsheet packages.
* Evidence of strong numerate and analytical skills.
* A full driving licence.

For further information contact:

Dr Áine Ní Dhubháin,

Dept. of Crop Science,

Horticulture and Forestry,

Faculty of Agriculture,

University College Dublin,

Belfield,

Dublin 4,

Ireland.

(Email: [aine.nidhubhain@ucd.ie](aine.nidhubhain%40ucd.ie))

## COFORD/ITGA Seminar – Utilisation of thinnings from private woodlands

The Irish Timber Growers’ Association hold an annual seminar in Dublin every November. COFORD will co-host this year’s seminar entitled ‘Utilisation of thinnings from Private Woodlands’. The seminar will be held in the Industry Centre, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4 on Thursday, November 8th. The programme for the event is as follows:

**Morning Chairperson:** Mick Prendergast, Principal Officer Forest Service.

09:15 **Registration**

09:45 **Official Opening by** Mr Hugh Byrne TD: Minister of State, Department of the Marine and Natural Resources

10:00 **Opening Address by** Charles Colthurst, Chairman of ITGA

10:15 **"Private Sector Roundwood Supply - Quantification and Issues to be addressed"**
Joe O’Carroll, Research Manager , COFORD.

11:15 **"Planning Markets for future Roundwood Supply from the Private Sector"**
Seán Wiley/Willie Fitzgerald, Timber and Furniture Department, Enterprise Ireland.

12:00 **"Experiences with the Production of Energy Wood Chips in Danish Forestry".**
Ebbe Leer, Hedeselskabet, Denmark

2:15 **"The Role of ITC Sawmills in Utilising the Increasing Roundwood Supply".**
Jim Hurley, Irish Timber Council.

3:00 **"Economies of Scale for Small Forest Plantations-an assessment of different models in Europe".**

Dr Andreas Ottitsch- European Forest Institute.

4:15 **Concluding Address:** Angela Coffey, on behalf of COFORD.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the COFORD website.

## COFORD/IFNA Workshop – Nursery Research and Development

Irish Forest Nurseries now produce an estimated 80 million plants each year. This comprises of an estimated 13.2 million broadleaves and 66.8 million conifers. It addition to the afforestation activity approximately 8,000 ha is reforested annually. The nursery sector consists of modern, well-managed enterprises that pride themselves in delivering a quality product and service to its customer base. This COFORD/Irish Forest Nurseries Association workshop and field visit on Nov 16th & 17th will outline the key results from research funded by COFORD under its 1994-1999 research programme. It will also report on other developments in the sector, particularly at Coillte nurseries. COFORD wish to acknowledge the assistance of Coillte in making this event possible. Coillte nurseries have been very proactive in fostering an innovative environment which is receptive to the latest research finding.

Research has played a key role in improving the quality of plants produced by the sector and has greatly increased the level of technical knowledge among nursery managers. This seminar and field visit aim to update the nursery sector on the latest research findings and to outline future developments. The programme is as follows:

**16 November, 2001**

**Venue:** Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow Town.

11:15 **Registration and coffee**

11:25 **Welcoming statement**
Mr Joe O’Carroll, *Research Manager, COFORD*

Chairman: Mr Pat Long, *General Manager, Coillte Nurseries*

11:30 **The effect of moist pre-chilling & invigoration techniques on the germination of Douglas fir & noble fir seeds.**
Mr Pat Doody, *Coillte Nurseries*

12:00 **The effect of root wrenching on the quality of Japanese larch transplants.**
Mr Ned Morrissey, *Coillte Nurseries*

12:30 **The impact of herbicides and their impact on seedling quality in the nursery**
Dr Nick McCarthy, *Waterford Institute of Technology*

1:45 **German Nursery Practice** Dr Heinrich Lösing

2:30 **Plant size control and its effect on cold storage, frost resistance, outplant survival & growth.**
Dr Barbara Thompson, *Independent Consultant*

3:15 **Stress grading planting stock**
Dr Conor O’Reilly, UCD

4:00 **Chlorophyll fluorescence to diagnose potential plant performance**
Dr Mike Perks, *Forest Research*

4:45 **Root Electrolyte Leakage in Douglas fir**
Dr Derek Mitchell, UCD

5:30 **Summary Discussion**

5:50 **Seminar Close**

**17  November, 2001**
**Venue:** Ballintemple Nursery, Ardattin, Co. Carlow

10:00 **Practical discussions on the effective use of herbicides to control weed growth in broadleaf and conifer crops**

Dr Heinrich Lösing

1:30 **Lunch hosted by Coillte Nurseries**

The event is free but places are limited, so pre-registration is essential. Forms are available to download from our website.

## Carbon Corner

 The seventh Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP7 – opened in Marrakech on Monday last the 29th of October. It is scheduled to run until the 9th of November. The objective of the COP is to finalise the Kyoto Protocol ‘rulebook’. These are a set of ten draft decisions, left over from COP6 at Bonn, that set the rules for compliance with the protocol, the inclusion of forestry and agricultural sinks, and a host of other details. For the international climate change process to move forward it is essential that these draft decisions are agreed. It can then move on towards implementation, and towards negotiations on the next round of emissions cuts, which could begin as soon as 2005.

As discussed in previous Carbon Corners the draft decision document dealing with Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry – LULUCF – is FCCC/CP/2001/L.11/Rev.1. This document emerged after the high level political agreement on the inclusion of sinks under both articles 3.3 (afforestation, reforestation and deforestation – ARD) and 3.4 forest management and cropland management of the Kyoto Protocol. Afforestation and reforestation also qualify under Article 12, the CDM - clean development mechanism – which is targeted at developing countries. The CDM would allow Annex 1 parties (those with greenhouse gas reduction targets) to invest in forestry and other energy related projects in developing countries and to benefit from any greenhouse gas reduction benefits that may arise as a result of the project. In FCCC/CP/2001/L.11/Rev.1, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice – SBSTA, is invited to develop definitions and modalities for the inclusion of forestry projects in the CDM in the first commitment period (2008-2012). The issues to be tackled include non-permanence (all sinks projects have the potential to be ‘reversed’ through fire or deforestation), additionality, leakage (movement of carbon out of the project area), uncertainties and socio-economic and environmental impacts.

The draft agreement also allows for Joint Implementation – JI – projects undertaken jointly by two Annex 1 parties. This would allow, for example, carbon credits gained under an afforestation project in Ireland to be used by another Annex 1 country. The details of how the registration and transfer of credits will work out have yet to be agreed but there is scope for such developments. Sweden, for example, already has a number of prototype JI energy-related projects in the Baltic States.

There is lot of work to be done at Marrakech, including the forestry area. Final agreement on a number of issues, such as the amount of carbon allowed for each Party under Article 3.4 - forest management - has yet to reached. However the spirit of cooperation and compromise that was evident at Bonn may prevail and result in the agreements necessary for national carbon accounting to be become a reality. There is no doubt that should this development occur it will have profound and long-lasting implications not only for afforestation but for the use of wood and wood products in the built environment and in energy generation.

## Survey of Architects

COFORD recently commissioned the UCD Marketing Development Programme to conduct a survey of the membership of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland. The closing date for the return of completed questionnaires has now passed. The results of the questionnaire will be used to formulate promotional and educational activities to increase the use of timber and wood products by architects and specifiers.

By way of rewarding those individuals who took time to complete the survey, Woodfab Timber Ltd., suppliers of the E-Zee Build™ decking system (<http://www.e-zeebuild.ie/>), sponsored a prize which was won by one lucky respondent from the Fitzpatrick & Mays firm on South Circular Road. The prize is a voucher for a weekend in any Great Southern Hotel. COFORD wishes to express its gratitude to the sponsor and those hundreds of architects who replied.

## Pending Publications

It was stated in our last newsletter that we would be launching three publications at our Nov. 8th seminar. These publications will not now be available until the end of the month. We apologise for this delay and thank those of you who have placed advance orders.

## Publications from Other Sources

Some forestry and wood related publications that have been brought to our attention recently are:

### GoodWood Solutions

This company, which provides and constructs log homes, have just added details of a 104-page information book to their website (www.goodwoodsolutions.com). This publication gives an overview of various wood species, construction techniques, sample floor plans, design capabilities and energy efficiency data.

Click on the Brochure Request link

(http://www.goodwoodsolutions.com/index.htm?NotifyEmailBroReq) to get details on how to purchase the Design Annual.

### Tree Doctor

Tree diseases are very much on the increase – because of drought, parasites, pollution and so on - and until now, non-specialists had few ways of learning how to diagnose pathological conditions in trees, either for prevention or cure.

This CD-ROM in four languages (French, English, Italian and Dutch) provides a synopsis of expert knowledge on European trees. The text, along with some 2,600 drawings and 1,000 photographs, has been compiled to help non specialists identify the most common disease factors (insects, fungi, infectious diseases and abiotic factors) affecting 196 of the most common tree species in Europe, using a fast, simple symptom recognition approach. Numerous hypertext links are provided to help users navigate between the two databases on species and likely pathogenic factors, the glossary and bibliographic data.

The CDROM is aimed at those working with forest or ornamental trees – foresters, parks and gardens managers, experts, advisors, trainers, students and enlightened amateurs.

Tree Doctor was produced by pooling the expertise of 6 research and development organisations in the professional forestry and arboriculture sectors in France, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK, along with data from the scientific experts contributing to their networks. Their work on Tree Doctor was supported by the EU Leonardo da Vinci programme.

To receive the Tree Doctor CD-ROM, please contact: IDF Diffusion, 23 avenue Bosquet, 75007 Paris, tel. +33 (0)1 40 62 22 81. Your payment (VAT inclusive) of 72.93 Euros (478.40 FFr) per copy (plus postage charge of 8 Euros or 40 FFr) should be sent by cheque.

## Wood Promotion Website

It is interesting to note that even in countries with a strong wood products culture there is omnipresent, wood promotional activity. An example of this is the web site <http://www.forestinformation.com>. More than 200 wood products companies and their allied associations that share a vision and mission of responsible and sustainable forest management to keep North American forests abundant and growing support Forestinformation.com.

 Forestinformation.com combines Canadian, U.S. and United Nations forestry resources in an effort to educate people on the value forests provide, as well as efforts across North America to sustainably manage these forests for future generations. Also, the Weyerhaeser Company have commited to plant a tree for every visitor to the site.

## Irish Joinery Awards

In the July issue of Forestry and Wood Update (<http://www.coford.ie/newsletter/No4_July_2001.htm>) we informed readers that entries were being accepted for the 2001 Irish Joinery Awards, organised by The Irish Timber Traders Association and sponsored by the American Hardwood Export Council.

All entries have now been judged and the winners will be presented with their awards at a ceremony on November 14th. We will bring you an update on the winners of each category in next month’s newsletter.

## New Chairman of EFI

Mr Fergal Mulloy, former director of COFORD, was elected chairman of the board of the European Forest Institute on September 8, 2001. While the board, including its chairman, is elected annually at the annual conference, the usual term for board member is six years. The chairman is elected from the board. Mr Mulloy have served four years (three years as vice Chairman) and can serve another two. The previous two chairmen were Tim Peck, former head of the FAO /ECE Agriculture and Timber Division, Geneva, Switzerland forest unit in Geneva and Yves Birot, Head of Forest research in INRA France.

The European Forest Institute is a non governmental, independent research body established in 1993 and having its headquarters in Joensuu, Finland. It undertakes research in three main areas:

1) Forest Ecology and Management,

2) Forest Products Markets and Socio-economics,

3) Forest Policy Analysis,

4) Forest Resources and Information.

The annual budget is approximately 2.5 million EURO with about 1 million EURO coming from the Finnish Government. The remainder of the budget (1.5 million EURO) comes form research projects and membership fees. Many of the research partners are from member organisations of the Institute and this helps to bring a pan European dimension to the research undertaken. Most of this research is sponsored by the European Union.

Over 30 research projects are currently taking place. In addition to research activities, the European Forest Institute publishes its results in

four scientific book series (Research Reports, Working Papers, Proceedings and Discussion Papers). The Institute also arrange international seminars, conferences and workshops, often in cooperation with our members. EFI has currently 134 member organisations from 36 countries.

 Ireland has three full members: COFORD, Coillte and University College Dublin. The Forest Service is an associate member.

The headquarters of the Institute is in Joensuu, Finland, a university city about 350 Km north east of Helsinki in the province of Karalia. This city is fast becoming the forest research capital of Europe with three separate forest research facilities; The forestry faculty of Joensuu university, the much expanded Finnish Forest Research Organisation (METLA) and of course EFI. A visit to the EFI website <http://www.efi.fi/> will reveal further information

about EFI activities.

## Opportunity to demonstrate the environmental advantages of timber and wood products

### House of Tomorrow - New Irish Research, Development and Demonstration Programme Launched

This new programme offers an excellent opportunity for the forest industry to engage in cooperative demonstration activity to show the environmental advantages of homegrown forest products. Homegrown wood products have a lower embodied energy value than any other building material – including imported material. With this unique selling point in its armour, the Irish forest products sector can aim to avail of this programme to promote more environmentally friendly and energy efficient housing.

 The principal objective of the House of Tomorrow programme is to generate results from funded projects which can lead to more sustainable energy practices in Irish housing, both new build and existing stock. The programme is administered by the Irish Energy Centre under the Economic and Social Infrastructure Operation Programme of the National Development Plan.

The House of Tomorrow Programme's objective includes contributing to workable least cost solutions which can improve energy performance and reduce environmental emissions from Irish housing to help meet the national commitment arising from the Kyoto protocol.

Such solutions can be in the form of improved technologies, products, processes, practices and policies aimed at impacting on the housing market (including renewable energy technologies). These may also lead to new business opportunities for sustainable energy products and services in home and export markets.

The main focus of the programme is on stimulating widespread uptake of superior sustainable energy planning, design, specification and construction practices in both the new home building and home improvement

markets. The programme has an indicative budget of EURO 21.1 M over the period 2001 - 2006.

Timetable:

The programme is scheduled to run to the end of 2006 and will be subject to mid-term review at the end of 2003.

Further information can be obtained from:

Ms. Aine Lavelle

Grants Administration

Irish Energy Centre

Glasnevin

Dublin 9

Tel: 01 8082086

Email: aine.lavelle@irish-energy.ie

## REIO's Study Tour to Wood Fuelled Heating & CHP Plants in Finland

The Renewable Energy Information Office, Ireland's leading information service on renewable energy has organised a study tour to Finland for potential Irish players to take a closer look at bioenergy as a fast developing renewable energy source. The itinerary for the three-day trip also includes attendance at the

internationally acclaimed FINBIO Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition in Helsinki.

Worldwide Bioenergy, the majority of it traditional wood fuel, is still by far the most important source of non-fossil fuel energy, meeting over 13% of primary energy demand.

Commencing with site visits on Monday 12th November, International Seminar on Tuesday 13th November and Exhibition in Helsinki's Main Trade Centre on Wednesday 14th November, the trip has been arranged to coincide with the FINBIO Bioenergy 10th Anniversary Conference and Exhibition.

(http://www.finbioenergy.fi/Seminaarit/2001biopaivat/english/kutsu.htm).

During the tour, the Irish delegation will visit a number of modern bioenergy power and heating plants, where experts at each site will share their practical know how and experiences. Presentations from leading experts on the profitability of wood based heat or Combined Heat & Power will be made.

Numbers are limited - the Renewable Energy Information Office will facilitate free conference attendance, conference dinner and all site visits during the trip. You are advised to book early as interest is likely to exceed the number of places available.

For full information on the event, please contact Fiona Jennings or Paul Dykes directly at the Renewable Energy Information Office, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co Cork. Telephone 023 42193 or e-mail: biomass@reio.ie.

## EC Call for Tenders

The European Commission is currenting seeking tenders for the ‘Development of a draft Commission Decision establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the Community eco-label to wooden floor coverings – Ref: ENV/D3/530642’. Application forms and further details are available from:

Mrs Alexa SERVANTE

DG ENV.D3

Rue de la loi, 200

B-1049 Bruxelles

Belgium

Tel: +(32-2) 295 8924

The closing date is Nov 19, 2001. All enquiries should be directed to DG Environment and not to COFORD.

## Premia?

In last month’s newsletter we inexplicably used the word ‘premia’. This word seems to have surfaced some time ago on the understanding that it had been incorporated into the English language. A dedicated reader who has sought for sometime to have this word removed from the forestry lexicon pointed out this error to us. To honour this reader’s wishes to stamp out this solecism we will endeavour to use the correct plural of premium (premiums) in future. We hope this note will help to banish this inaccuracy from all forestry literature once and for all.

 To unsubscribe to this newsletter, reply to info@coford.ie with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject field.

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