

Forestry and Wood Update

August 2003 - Volume 3 Number 8

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COFORD

Agriculture Building, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Tel: (01) 7167700

Fax: (01) 7161180

Email: [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie)

Web: [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)

# Your chance to shape COFORD’s R&D programme

The current COFORD R&D programme is now in year 4 of its seven-year duration. Details of projects currently being funded, or recently finished, can be viewed at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). However, the COFORD Council and executive now wish to conduct a gap analysis of the programme and have launched its mid-term review under the title *Sustaining Forest Development*. Given the synergies between research, development, training and education, the review will cover gaps in each of these areas.

A new section will be added to the COFORD website (follow the *Sustaining Forest Development* link from our homepage [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)). It will feature a wider briefing document and further relevant background information.

The purpose of the review is to guide the current COFORD programme to the end of the current Operational Programme (OP) for the Productive Sector and to chart future forest research, development and training needs over the period to the end of the decade. The specific objectives are to:

1. review how well the COFORD project portfolio under the current OP addresses the overall needs of the forestry sector, taking into account company-led R&D under the Enterprise Ireland Research, Technology and Innovation (EI RTI) scheme and other non-COFORD funded R&D;
2. identify gaps in the current R&D programme and to suggest ways that these could be cost-effectively addressed;
3. examine and anticipate the challenges and opportunities facing the forest sector over the coming decade and suggest research areas and strategies to address these;
4. examine the role and scope of developmental/promotional activities in COFORD’s brief;
5. report to the council and the Minister on the findings of the review.

The review will focus on five sectoral areas of the forest industry and two cross-sectoral, thematic areas: environment (including climate change) and socio-economic aspects of forestry. Each area is subdivided into a number of focus areas, to facilitate discussion and stakeholder submissions. These are:

## FOREST Reproductive material

[reproductivematerial@coford.ie](mailto:reproductivematerial@coford.ie)

1. Gene conservation

2. Sources of forest reproductive material, nursery practice, containerisation/ micropropagation, plant storage, handling and transport

## Non-wood forest products

[nwfp@coford.ie](mailto:nwfp@coford.ie)

3. Christmas trees and foliage

4. Other non-wood forest products

5. Wood energy and biofuels

**Silviculture and management**

[silviculture@coford.ie](mailto:silviculture@coford.ie)

6. Species selection, forest establishment and protection, maintenance

7. Spacing, thinning and tending, forest management, decision support tools and forest valuation, mensuration

8. Forest inventory

**Harvesting and transport**

[logistics@coford.ie](mailto:logistics@coford.ie)

9. Harvest planning and scheduling, roading, transport, economics and logistics

10. Wood biomass supply chain management

**Processing**

[woodprocessing@coford.ie](mailto:woodprocessing@coford.ie)

11. Hardwood log processing, storage and handling; sawmilling technology and sawmilling systems; hardwood procurement, harvesting and processing, product development

12. Log storage and handling, sawmilling technology and systems, structural wood products, pallets and fencing, engineered wood products and systems, non-structural construction wood products (excluding furniture)

13. Board manufacture process and systems (including wood ash re-use)

14. Timber preservation, including end of life disposal

## Environment

[environment@coford.ie](mailto:environment@coford.ie)

16. Water quality, climate change, biodiversity, environmental procedures

17. Post-consumer wood waste – segregation/combustion issues

## Socio-economic aspects

[socioeconomic@coford.ie](mailto:socioeconomic@coford.ie)

20. Macro economics of the forestry sector, social impacts of forestry, forest policy, forest industry regulation, business impact assessment

**Making a submission**

Submissions are invited from any organisation or person resident in the Republic of Ireland. Preferably these should be submitted in MS Word format (using the submission form downloadable at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)) and forwarded to the relevant email address shown above. Please include a contact name and address and where possible a day-time telephone number. Submissions should preferably refer to a specific focus area, however contributors may address wider briefs.

Submissions may be received at any time over the period 1 August to 30 September 2003.

All those who make a submission will be acknowledged and listed in reports arising from the review. However, the specific details of individual submissions will be kept confidential if requested.

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# Foresight Study on the Rural Environment in Ireland in 2025

The Department of Agriculture and Food, in association with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Marine Institute and COFORD, invites institutions in Ireland with an established research capability to submit applications for a research project to conduct a Foresight Study on *The Rural Environment In Ireland in 2025*.

The rural and coastal regions in Ireland are facing a period of major change, driven chiefly by macro-economic trends. Economic and policy developments give rise to various pressures on rural areas, ranging from economic and population contraction in some areas to growth and competing spatial demands in urban/rural interface areas. All of these have an impact on the quality of the rural environment. Future policy planning for sustainable development will be greatly enhanced by an understanding of the characteristics that determine the nature and integrity of rural and coastal areas.

The objectives of the Foresight Study are to develop a perspective of rural and coastal areas in 2025, in terms of quality of the physical environment and rural viability, including economic developments and social change.

The study should take into consideration likely EU and international policy changes and related national developments and their impacts. It should follow a Foresight style format in examining and presenting a perspective of rural Ireland in 2025. In this, it should have regard to likely developments in land based and coastal activities, including forestry. It should attempt to outline possible future rural scenarios, and identify initiatives and policies that might be followed to reach a preferred future.

The study will benefit policy makers and key influencers in government departments and other agencies concerned with rural and coastal sustainability in Ireland. It should be completed within one year, and the results should be submitted in report form to the Department of Agriculture and Food, and also presented at a seminar for interested parties.

Proposals should involve collaboration of at least two research institutes, and may also involve industry or other partners. Funding of €50,000 will be provided towards cost of the study. You are invited to submit a proposal in accordance with the requirements, which may be downloaded from [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie/funding/00to06.html#foresight) (funding programmes 2000-2006).

Enquiries should be addressed to:  
Martin Farrell  
Agricultural Structures Division  
Dept of Agriculture and Food  
Johnstown Castle  
Co Wexford  
Telephone: 053 63449; Fax: 053 43965  
e-mail: martin.farrell@agriculture.gov.ie

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# COFORD WORKSHOP: Preparation and Sale of Hardwoods

During 2002 and 2003, COFORD organised a series of two-day seminars on the management of broadleaves to produce quality hardwood timber. At these events, a major shortcoming was identified in the area of availability and quantification of supply of hardwood material between growers and users of hardwood logs. To address this issue, COFORD undertook to co-ordinate the development of a system where growers with hardwoods for sale would list available material in a standardised format. This list would be published periodically and circulated nationally as a sales catalogue, and is soon to commence on a trial basis.

To further this objective, COFORD has organised a hands-on workshop on the quantification and categorisation of standing hardwoods and the felling and jointing of felled material in preparation for such a sale. The first of these one-day workshops is scheduled to take place in Dundrum, Co Tipperary, on Tuesday 16 September 2003.

The main speaker will be Gavin Munro, a Scottish forester who has specialised in the purchase, processing and sale of hardwoods in the international market since 1975. He has been a member of the Scottish Hardwood Marketing Development Group since its establishment and is currently working as a hardwood timber buyer with T & G Norman in Carlisle.

This event is aimed at owners and managers of broadleaved woodland as well as consultant foresters and all those working on the management of broadleaved trees.

The event is recognised under the Society of Irish Foresters Programme of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and participation is equivalent to 10 points for SIF members.

The programme for the day will be:

INDOOR SESSION at the Dundrum House Hotel

09:00 Registration

09:30 Opening address by Mr David Nevins (Chairman, COFORD)

09:45 Introduction by Dr Eugene Hendrick (Director, COFORD)

10:00 The processing and presentation of Irish hardwoods by Seamus Heaney (Coillte)

10:30 Hardwood timber sales by Gavin Munro (T&G Norman)

1. Preparation and presentation of woodlots

2. Valuing and grading of hardwoods

*OUTDOOR SESSION at Gortusa Property, Dundrum (Coillte)*

13:00 Sourcing Irish hardwoods by Pat Buckley (Coillte)

13:30 Measuring, grading and valuing hardwood timber at the roadside by Gavin Munro (T&G Norman)

14:30 Grading and valuing standing trees by Gavin Munro (T&G Norman)

15:30 Question and answer session

16:00 Close of proceedings by Joe O’Carroll (Operations Manager, COFORD)

Attendance at the workshop (including refreshments and lunch) is subject to a registration fee of €50 per person. It is advisable to book early as places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis. Download the registration form at [www.coford.ie/HardwoodSales.pdf](http://www.coford.ie/HardwoodSales.pdf). Contact COFORD for further information – tel: 01 716 7700 or email [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie)

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# Short Term Research Mission Reports on COFORD Website

The latest STRM reports can be downloaded from the Bookshop link on the COFORD website – [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). These are:

* Improving the economics of early thinnings. IUFRO meeting, Joensuu, Finland. 7 - 9 May 2003, by John Lyons
* Second International Symposium on the Syrphidae. University of Alicante, Spain. 16-19 June 2003, by Dr Tom Gittings

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# Carbon Corner

## Proposal for a carbon tax

The Minister for Finance has initiated a consultation process in relation to the possibility of introducing a carbon tax. An outline of the process and accompanying documents are on the Department of Finance’s web site (<http://www.finance.gov.ie/news/jul03/mcc1190consult.htm>).

In the past, Carbon Corner has outlined the advantages of wood energy as a carbon neutral fuel – amounts of carbon dioxide that are emitted in combustion are captured again where the areas from which the wood originates are kept under forest or are reforested. This principle is recognised in the accounting of greenhouse gas emissions under the UN Convention on Climate Change and will also operate when and if the Kyoto Protocol enters into force. Simply stated, this means that there will be no penalty associated with burning wood, unlike fossil fuels such as coal, gas, oil and peat. Therefore, switching part of energy or heat generation from, for example, peat to wood biomass makes both economic and environmental sense.

In the context of any proposed levy or tax on fossil fuels, wood energy will or should be exempt. Indeed this is the practice in countries such as Denmark and Finland, whose private and state sectors are investing heavily in wood energy. Not only is this benefiting the environment but it is also moving these countries closer to compliance with their Kyoto targets.

While oil and gas continue to be cost competitive fuels relative to wood there is a strong fuel-security case for wood energy. It is an indigenous raw material with a growing supply base arising from the vigorous afforestation programmes of the past decades. Apart from its traditional use in the home, wood can be used for district and commercial heating projects, and in energy generation. There are few, if any, technical barriers to its use. Combustion technologies and efficiencies have improved beyond recognition in the past decade.

Taking these facts into consideration, a carbon tax would be highly beneficial as far as wood energy is concerned. It would provide a stimulus to investors and the forest industry to become more proactive in promoting and using a carbon-neutral fuel source. It would also contribute (perhaps up to 5% over the first Kyoto commitment-period) to the cost-effective reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions. The target is the 1990 level, plus 13%. Given that current emission levels are over 35% up on the 1990 level, with stiff penalties in prospect for non-compliance, wood energy has a definite role to play.

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# Proposal for a Carbon Energy Tax in Ireland – Consultation Paper

In his Budget Speech on 4 December 2002, the Minister for Finance made specific reference to the introduction of carbon energy taxation in Ireland. He noted that Ireland had international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol to limit emissions of greenhouse gases here and that, accordingly, the Government was asking the relevant Departments concerned to bring forward plans for a carbon energy tax with a target date of end – 2004 for its introduction.

The Minister for Finance indicated that because of the many and varied implications of such a tax, there would be full consultation with interested parties on the design of the tax and there would be a reasonable lead-in period to its introduction. As mentioned in Carbon Corner above, a consultation document is now available at <http://www.finance.gov.ie/News/jul03/mcc1190consult.htm>

The purpose of the paper is to give a concise overview of the issues relevant to consideration of the proposal and to stimulate discussion and reaction among interested parties.

Two related background papers – the [Tax Strategy Group paper TSG/02/23](http://www.finance.gov.ie/publications/tsg02/tsg0223b.rtf) and an accompanying paper on [Implementing Greenhouse Gas Taxation TSG/02/23a](http://www.finance.gov.ie/publications/tsg02/tsg0223a.rtf) – have already been published and are attached as Appendices to the consultation paper.

There is general acceptance, worldwide, of the need to address the issue of curtailing the emission of *greenhouse gases* which are a particular category of gases existing in the earth’s atmosphere which absorb radiation. While some greenhouse gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, their levels are being significantly increased by human activities, e.g. industrialisation, transport, farming and heating. The prime greenhouse gas is *carbon dioxide* (CO2), which invariably is released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels – peat, coal, and oil – are burnt or combusted. Other greenhouse gases are *methane*, which arises from the production and transport of coal, natural gas and oil, from the decomposition of organic waste and from the raising of livestock; and *nitrous oxide*, which is emitted in agricultural activities, as well as from the burning of fossil fuels.

Climate change is acknowledged as a global environmental problem and has led to demands for cuts in global emissions of greenhouse gases of the order of 60% - 70% by the end of this century to prevent dangerous man-made interference with natural climate systems.

Table 1 sets out a range of possible taxation rates per tonne of CO2 and the implications of each one of these for the range of fuels concerned.

**Table 1**: Tax (€) (excluding VAT) per tonnes oil equivalent (TOE) corresponding to various rates per tonne of CO2 .

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rate per TOE** | **€7.50** | **€10** | **€15** | **€20** | **€25** |
| Peat | €31.05 | €41.40 | €62.10 | €82.80 | €103.50 |
| Coal | €29.70 | €39.60 | €59.40 | €79.20 | €99.00 |
| Auto Fuel | €22.88 | €30.50 | €45.75 | €61.00 | €76.25 |
| Oil | €23.85 | €31.80 | €47.70 | €63.60 | €79.50 |
| LPG | €19.95 | €26.60 | €39.90 | €53.20 | €66.50 |
| Natural Gas | €17.25 | €23.00 | €34.50 | €46.00 | €57.50 |

The resulting effect on the retail price of each rate of tax for the various carbon energy products is set in Table 2.

**Table 2**: Retail fuel price increases (including VAT) for different tax rates.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fuel** | **Retail Unit** | **€ 7.50** | **€ 10** | **€ 15** | **€ 20** | **€ 25** |
| Peat - Briquette | Bale € | 0.195 | 0.260 | 0.390 | 0.520 | 0.651 |
| Coal | 40kg Bag € | 0.897 | 1.196 | 1.793 | 2.391 | 2.989 |
|  | Tonne € | 22.4 | 29.9 | 44.8 | 59.8 | 74.7 |
| Oil – Heating | Litre € | 0.029 | 0.038 | 0.058 | 0.077 | 0.096 |
| Oil – Motor | Litre € | 0.028 | 0.037 | 0.056 | 0.074 | 0.093 |
| LPG | Litre € | 0.014 | 0.019 | 0.029 | 0.038 | 0.048 |
| Natural Gas | kWh € | 0.0014 | 0.0018 | 0.0027 | 0.0037 | 0.0046 |

Wood biomass being produced from sustainably managed forests should be exempt from the proposed carbon tax. This will enhance the cost competitiveness of wood biomass and wood based fuels, such as wood pellets, relative to fossil fuels such as peat, coal and oil.

The Department of Finance invites submissions on the proposed carbon energy tax. Views are requested on:

* the rate or rates of tax;
* whether and how the rate or rates should be phased in;
* the appropriate collection mechanisms;
* whether there should be rebates for those with legally binding negotiated agreements;
* the impact on competitiveness;
* the impact on households and the appropriate mechanism if low income households were to be compensated; and
* whether and how any revenue recycling should operate.

The closing date for submissions is 30 September 2003. Submissions should be sent to:

Ms Susan O’Reilly  
Carbon Energy Taxation Consultation  
Budget and Economic Division  
Department of Finance  
Government Buildings  
Upper Merrion Street  
Dublin 2   
Email: [green.tax@finance.gov.ie](mailto:green.tax@finance.gov.ie)

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# UK Government announces further support for biomass

The British government has continued to back its vocal support for wood biomass with financial support. Announcing the latest round of grant packages under the Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme, Energy Minister, Mr Brian Wilson, MP stated, “Power from biomass is a vital component to help us reach our environmental goals, fulfil our energy needs and create employment.” The largest single recipient of funding was Peninsula Power (Devon) who will receive Stg11.5 million to develop a 23MW biomass facility. Other projects to receive funding are:

NA01208_ Bronzeoak (Somerset) – Stg£3.8 m to build 7MWe/1.5MWth CHP plant to fuel a wood products facility.

NA01208_ Charlton Energy (Somerset) – Stg£2 m to build 7MWe/7MWth biomass fired CHP plant.

NA01208_ Roves Energy (Wiltshire) – Stg$0.96 m to build 2.5MWe/5MWth CHP.

In addition to these Bioenergy Capital Grants, the UK Dept of Trade and Industry (DTI) has announced Stg£4.2 m funding for eleven large projects to establish clusters of biomass heating installations. Two of note are:

NA01208_ Fermanagh Biomass for Sustainable Development Business Initiative – wood heating cluster to demonstrate efficiency and economy of wood fuel heating using the ESCo model.

NA01208_ Econergy Ltd – two separate projects to establish a 12.4 MWth and a 7.2MWth heating cluster across southern England. Attendees at last year’s COFORD/SEI Wood Energy Conference in Carrick-on-Shannon will recall Econergy’s whole tree chipping machine which was on demonstration.

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# EUFORGEN Conifers Network Meeting in Scotland

The Fourth Meeting of the EUFORGEN Conifers Network Group has just been announced. It will take place in Pitlochry, Pertshire in Scotland from 18 to 20 October 2003 and is being hosted by the Tree Improvement Branch of Forest Research. The theme for the meeting is *Conservation and use of genetic resources of exotic conifer species in Europe*. Representatives from approximately 30 European countries are expected to participate and present an updated country report on developments in gene conservation in conifers. Other items for discussion include:

* Proposed European Commission Regulation on genetic resources.
* Developments in Technical Guidelines on gene conservation in conifers.
* Best practice for genetically sustainable forest management.
* Developments in documentation, information and new public awareness initiatives.
* EUFORGEN beyond Phase ll.

The meeting will conclude with a seminar on conserving and using exotic conifers, based on experiences from the UK, and implications for Europe. Practicing geneticists in the UK will present papers on:

* The introduction, variation and use of non-native conifers in Britain.
* Breeding programmes in exotic conifers in Britain.
* Developing a policy for long-term archiving of breeding material.
* Handling exotic species from the genetic conservation point of view.

The programme will conclude with a visit to some of the experimental sites followed by a final wrap-up session and adoption of the summary meeting report.

Visit the EUFORGEN website at <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/networks/euforgen> for further information.

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# Plant Genomics European Meetings

The fourth annual Genomic Arabidopsis Resource Network (GARNet) meeting will take place from 3 to 6 September at the University of York, UK. It will be combined with the Second Plant Genomics European Meeting (GEM), which is organised by the four national plant genomic programmes GARNet (UK), Genoplante (France), GABI (Germany) and Biosystems Genomics (Netherlands), and is supported by the UK research council BBSRC, the GATSBY Foundation, the University of York, Horticulture Research International (HRI) and Genoplante. Plant-GEMs is an annual meeting series focusing on plant genomic research, held in various European countries. Plant-GEMs provides a gathering place and communication platform for plant geonome researchers and highlights relevant biological questions by discussing research in model organisms and applications in crop plants.

For further information visit the websites <http://www.plant-gems.org>, or <http://garnet.arabidopsis.org.uk>

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# 5th Annual Renewable Energy Finance Forum

This forum will be held on 22 and 23 September 2003, Marriott Grosvenor Hotel, London. Since its inception in 1998 REFF - Renewable Energy Finance Forum - has grown in stature from a compact event, attended largely by delegates from the United Kingdom, to a well respected international conference that has attracted delegates from all over the world including Australia, US, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Norway, Denmark, France, Russia and Portugal.

This two-day forum provides an opportunity to network with the leading European project finance experts and renewable energy developers, to find out what makes renewables an attractive business field, and discover what commercial opportunities exist and how organisations can benefit from them.

Details about the programme as well as on-line registration can be found at the website [www.euromoneyenergy.com](http://www.euromoneyenergy.com).

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# Energy Users Seminar 2003

A seminar focusing on the needs of energy customers will be held on Thursday, 2 October 2003, at the Green Isle Hotel, Naas Road, Dublin. This is an Energy Ireland event in association with the Institution of Engineers of Ireland and the Irish Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management (IIPMM). **This event will provide an insight into:**

* Buying energy in an open market
* The new electricity trading arrangements
* Purchasing gas competitively
* Combined purchasing of gas and electricity
* Irish energy prices outlook
* Emissions trading; the impact on energy users
* Options for purchasing renewable energy
* The practicalities of switching supplier
* Energy purchasing for multi-site customers

For more information or to reserve a place(s) go to: [www.energyireland.ie/energy\_users](http://www.energyireland.ie/energy_users)or email [info@energyireland.ie](mailto:info@energyireland.ie)

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# 57th FEFPEB Congress

FEFPEB is Fédération Européenne des Fabricants de Palettes et Emballages en Bois, or the European Federation of Wooden Pallet and Packaging Manufacturers. The 57th FEFPEB Congress will take place from 10 to 13 September 2003 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

This conference is being organised in conjunction with Timcon (Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation), the UK National Trade Association representing the interests of the timber packaging industry – principally manufacturers of timber pallets, packing cases/crates and export packers. Timcon will host the annual meeting of the European Federation of ten members to network and discuss issues in the sector.

Visit the websites [www.fefpeb.org/general.asp](http://www.fefpeb.org/general.asp) and [www.timcon.org/Timcon/Default.asp](http://www.timcon.org/Timcon/Default.asp)

On-line registration can be done at <http://www.meetingmakers.co.uk/>

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# SEI/REIO Annual Wood Energy Study Tour

Sustainable Energy Ireland’s Renewable Energy Information Office (REIO) is organising its annual wood energy study tour. Delegates will visit a number of wood heat and power plants, where experts will share their practical know-how and experiences. The three day tour includes participation at Bioenergy 2003, the International Nordic Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition. The study tour will also participate in a technical tour of Wood Combined Heat and Power plants as well as district heating operations.

The study tour will take place from 2 to 5 September 2003, at Jyväskylä, Finland. For further information, visit the website <http://www.sei.ie/reio.htm> or email [renewables@reio.ie](mailto:renewables@reio.ie). For more information about the Bioenergy 2003 conference, see http://www.finbioenergy.fi/bioenergy2003

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# ****CELT : Centre for Environmental Living & Training****

## 'Promoting Conservation through Education'

CELT is a registered charity (CHY 14519) dedicated to environmental awareness, education and training. Its aims and objectives are:

* Increasing environmental awareness – through an active schools programme, student exchanges, training courses for adults, skills demonstrations and networking with other groups and organisations.
* Nature conservation – through involvement in local projects and working with initiatives such as the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan; also by promoting planting and use of native trees.
* Promoting renewable energy – through demonstrations and displays of specialist equipment and materials and making available relevant information and training.
* Keeping alive traditional countryside skills and crafts – through bringing together local and national experts to provide training and education for all levels.
* Promoting healthy food production – through providing information, education and training in organics, permaculture, agroforestry, companion planting, etc.

 Some of the events planned are:

* Sunday 17 August: **Mountshannon Fair Day**
* Sunday 14 September: **Heritage Day - Portumna Castle**
* 4-5 October: **'Work & Learn' weekend, and CELT AGM Saturday 4 October, Bealkelly Wood, Tuamgraney, Co Clare**
* 11-12 October: **Weekend in the Woods, Bealkelly Wood, Tuamgraney, Co Clare**

**For more information, and details about forthcoming events, take a look at the website** <http://celtnet.tripod.com/celt> **or send an email to** [celt@greenguide.ie](http://mail01.mail.com/scripts/mail/Outblaze.mail?compose&celtnet:europe.com&a&&composeto=celt@greenguide.ie&composecc=&subject=&body=)

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# COST Action E31 *Management of Recovered Wood* webpage

## http://www.ctib-tchn.be/coste31/frames/f\_e31.htm

The COST Action E31 *Management of Recovered Wood* webpage was developed and installed by Marc Van Leemput and his Collegues from Centre Technique de l'Industrie du Bois (CTIB, Belgium) with the help of the COST E31 Core Group (Lang, Hillring, Hurley, Jungmeier, Gallis). On the webpage are all the relevant documents concerning COST Action E31.

The next COST E31 meeting will take place from 11 to 13 September 2003. It will be geld at Hotel Larix, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia. The meeting is to be organised by the Management Committee of COST Action E31 and hosted by the University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Wood Science and Technology, Slovenia. At this meeting all participating countries will give a national summary report on the national situation of recovered wood, Further details (e.g. content, format) for this national report are on the webpage under "Contributions".

Visit the website for further information: <http://www.ctib-tchn.be/coste31/frames/f_e31.htm>

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# Workshop on how to write FP6 proposals and manage contracts

Hyperion and Eurocentre are jointly organising two workshops on how to write a competitive proposal for the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), and how to negotiate, administer and manage an FP6 contract. The events will take place on 28 and 29 August respectively, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The aim of the first course is to train research managers and administrators to write professional and competitive proposals for FP6. The course describes the relevance of FP6 to EU policies, the common problems in proposal writing and the success criteria for proposals. The course provides tips on how to collect information, how to select strategic partners and how to avoid duplication in proposal writing. The final section outlines a strategy for proposal writing.

The second course aims to prepare research managers and administrators to negotiate, manage and administer FP6 contracts. The course is based on the presenter’s experience, gained through involvement on over 50 Framework Programme contracts.

The working language for the courses will be English. For further information, email [mco@eurocenter.info](mailto:mco@eurocenter.info)

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# Introducing a Global Marketplace for Forest Information

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), in collaboration with key international and national forestry organizations, will showcase the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) at the upcoming World Forestry Congress in Quebec in September 2003. GFIS, an international collaborative project, provides an entry point on the Internet where users can locate maps, datasets, web resources, journal articles, books and other documents relevant to their forest information needs. GFIS is committed to promoting the accessibility, credibility, quality and permanence of forest information.

Forest information providers have been keen to promote their products and resources through GFIS. As a global network of distributed information resources, GFIS allows its information providers to retain full ownership of their information. For users, GFIS is unlike most information services in that it provides them with the ability to search the catalogues of many different information providers simultaneously. Instead of searching several Internet sites individually, the users save time by going to GFIS to discover the information they need.

GFIS currently holds over 100,000 catalogue records from numerous information providers in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America. GFIS will be demonstrated throughout the World Forestry Congress at the *Information Interoperability Conference* on 17 September, IUFRO’s information booth, 21-25 September, and at the GFIS side event on the evening of 26 September. Information users and providers are encouraged to see a demonstration and meet with GFIS staff during the Congress.

For those not attending the Congress, the GFIS website can be found at <http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/taskforce/hptfgfis.htm>

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This newsletter was compiled and edited by   
Lauren MacLennan, Technology Transfer Co-ordinator, COFORD   
Email: [lauren.maclennan@coford.ie](mailto:lauren.maclennan@coford.ie)

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