.

Forestry and Wood Update

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## CONTENTS

[Forest Energy 2006 Chipping Demonstrations 1](#_Toc142205714)

[Workshop on wood biomass harvesting and supply chain - Galway, 4 September 2](#_Toc142205715)

[Wood Energy Advisory Service 3](#_Toc142205716)

[Minister Wallace oversees conversion of department building in Wexford to wood energy 3](#_Toc142205717)

[EU-sponsored training week establishing local value chains for renewable heat (ELVA) 3](#_Toc142205718)

[Certificate in Biodiversity Components of Forestry at University College, Cork 4](#_Toc142205719)

[ForestXchange: New approaches in knowledge management. 4](#_Toc142205720)

[Seminar on developing bioenergy markets focusing on forest sector 5](#_Toc142205721)

[RES Market Places 5](#_Toc142205722)

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# Forest Energy 2006 Chipping Demonstrations

ForestEnergy 2006 aims to provide forest owners, managers and contractors with systems applicable to different crop and site conditions for the production of quality chips for wood energy. The second phase of the Forest Energy 2006 programme is due to take place in the weeks from 23 August to 1 September. The programme is an initiative of COFORD, Teagasc and Waterford Institute of Technology, aimed at demonstrating cost effective production of quality wood chip fuel.

Harvesting systems in first thinnings were demonstrated in March 2006 at sites located throughout the country. Crops included a range of conifer and broadleaf stands, and birch and lodgepole pine on Bord na Mona cutaway peat. In addition, the programme documented the performance, productivity and cost of each system. Moisture content, the critical factor in wood chip quality, was tracked from felling, and over the summer drying period, until chipping in August (demonstration dates below).

In the spring series of demonstrations, operations such as motor-manual felling by chainsaw, single-grip harvester and forwarder operations and a Danish feller-buncher were shown. The feller-buncher, a machine not currently used in Ireland, is a harvester base with an accumulating head that cuts and accumulates two to six trees at a time without any cross-cutting or delimbing before laying them on the ground. All felled logs were left in the forest to dry over the summer. Chipping will commence in late August and three chippers will be demonstrated: a tractor-mounted chipper with self-loading grapple and towing a chip trailer; a self-propelled terrain chipper with a chip forwarder; and a truck-mounted chipper. The tractor-mounted chipper and terrain chipper are capable of driving along the extraction racks, grabbing the felled trees and chipping into a trailer. The truck-mounted chipper will be used to chip energy wood stacks at the roadside.

The demonstrations are open to all interested in the developing wood energy market and take place on the following dates:

* Wednesday 23 August: First thinning of Sitka spruce, Frenchpark.
Meet at Ballinagare Community Centre, Co Roscommon.
* Friday 25 August: First thinning of Sitka spruce, Swan.
Meet at Community Centre, Timahoe, Co Laois.
* Monday 28 August: First thinning of ash/sycamore, Portlaw.
Meet at Community Centre, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.
* Wednesday 30 August: First thinning of Sitka spruce, Kilbrin.
Meet at Kilbrin Community Centre, Co Cork.
* Friday 1 September: Clearfelled birch and lodgepole pine, Bord na Móna, Boora.
Meet at Community Centre, Leabeg, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

Busses will depart from the meeting points to the sites at regular intervals between 12:00 and 1:30. No private vehicles will be allowed onto the demonstration sites. Attendance is free of charge and no registration is required. For further information see [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie); [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie) and www.teagasc.ie/forestry.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Workshop on wood biomass harvesting and supply chain - Galway, 4 September

The first in this series of workshops took place on 20 May 2005 as part of Wood Energy 2005, a conference co-hosted by COFORD and SEI REIO. The workshop has been repeated at six locations throughout the country since then. Due to demand, COFORD has decided to run the workshop again on 4 September 2006 at the Corrib Great Southern Hotel in Galway.

Presented by Pieter D. Kofman (Senior Consultant Wood for Energy, Danish Forest Extension) and Tom Kent (Waterford Institute of Technology), this is a vital workshop for forest managers and all others wishing to get involved in the supply chain of the emerging wood biomass sector.

Workshop contents:

• Introduction to wood biomass

• Overview of supply chain

• Wood biomass harvesting, transport and storage

• The Ten Commandments of wood biomass usage

• Quantification (conversion factors such as tonnes, m3, kWhrs, GJ, etc.)

• Irish and Danish case studies

• Biomass supply contract preparation

• Chipping and biomass boiler demonstration

This workshop and demonstration is limited to a maximum of 20 participants. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please register before 28 August 2006 by emailing info@coford.ie or phoning 01-2130725. The registration fee of €150.00 will include course material, biomass calculator software and refreshments.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Wood Energy Advisory Service

The free advisory service on [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie) is available and queries are being attended to by Pieter D. Kofman via email. Queries about the harvesting and supply chain sector of the wood energy industry, can be submitted online. Pieter can also be contacted between 9 and 12 am via Skype – the free software can be downloaded from [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and allows telephone calls to be conducted via your computer, free of charge. He can also be contacted by phone during the designated hours on +45 75 88 1519 or mobile +45 28 55 77 58.

Please note that queries about boilers, stoves or approved installers should be directed to Sustainable Energy Ireland, Renewable Energy Information Office, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co Cork. Tel: 023-42193, Fax: 023-29154, Email: renewables@reio.ie.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Minister Wallace oversees conversion of department building in Wexford to wood energy

Ms Mary Wallace TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food with special responsibility for forestry, oversaw the commencement of work on the installation of a wood-fuelled boiler at the Department's regional office in Johnstown Castle Estate.

It is planned to complete the conversion of the heating system in the Department's building to a wood-fired heating system by September of this year. Minister of State Wallace met with the contractor who will be carrying out the work under the supervision of the Office of Public Works. The Minister of State also acknowledged the involvement of COFORD in the development of the project. In her review of the project, the Minister of State said: “It is important that we, in Government, not only encourage and affirm the benefits of wood energy but that we actively promote them. Indeed we need to take a leading role in actively pursuing wood energy projects.” She added that the promotion of wood as a viable alternative energy source is a key objective of the Government. Minister Wallace commented that it was incumbent on everybody to find new ways of reducing our dependence on expensive imported fossil fuels “not only from the point of view of reducing our economic dependency but also from an environmental point of view. As a 'carbon neutral' fuel, wood energy can contribute significantly to Ireland meeting its targets under the Kyoto Protocol”. She noted that, as well as producing a carbon-neutral alternative to fossil fuel, the cultivation of wood energy crops represents a significant potential source of income for farmers and landowners.

*Source: Department of Agriculture and Food, 14 July 2006*

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# EU-sponsored training week establishing local value chains for renewable heat (ELVA)

After the success of the EU sponsored Training Courses "Development and Operation of Medium Scale Biomass Heating projects" held in February 2004 and "European Winter School on Wood Heating" held in November 2004, the Austrian Energy Agency is pleased to announce a training week on “Establishing Local Value Chains for Renewable Heat”. The course takes place at the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Güssing, Austria, from 13 – 17 November 2006.

Partly organised by SWS-Group, Bandon, Co Cork, this training course is organised in the context of the Intelligent Energy Europe project ELVA – a project dedicated to establishing local value chains for renewable heat (RES-H). The fee to take part is € 700 for five days - Monday to Friday and this includes accommodation (in Güssing and the first night in Vienna), all meals, bus transfers and participation in the training course including documentation. Participants attending the training only from Monday to Wednesday will be charged € 400. The course is limited to only sixty places so early booking is essential.

The aims of this training week are to make the participants (e.g. national and EU policy makers, trainers of local politicians, energy advisors at local level, etc.) aware of the opportunities created by local value chains for RES heat, to educate them on how to establish public-business-citizen partnerships and to show them how small and larger biomass heating projects can be developed and operated.

The training week will concentrate in particular on the following themes:

* Austrian and international experiences in establishing local value chains for RES-H
* Successful approaches of integrating renewable heat and energy efficiency into municipal policies
* Wood fuel characteristics, production technologies and fuel delivery logistics
* Wood heating technologies and benchmarks for performance that can and should be achieved
* Calculating the economics of wood heating plants, including practical examples in small groups

For more information on the course, please contact: Jitske Burgers, European Projects Co-ordinator, SWS Group, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland, telephone: 023 41271 or email: jitske.burgers@sws.ie. The project’s website will be available soon: [www.ieeprojects.net](http://www.ieeprojects.net/).

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Certificate in Biodiversity Components of Forestry at University College, Cork

The certificate in biodiversity components of forestry is a course which provides information on protected/rare species, forest biodiversity, water quality, Water Framework Directive, carbon sequestration, and many other practical issues. The course is accredited by NUI, Cork, and consists of:

* Module 1: Introduction to Biodiversity and Habitats
* Module 2: Forests and the Environment
* Module 3: Conservation and Forest Practice

The course is run over two blocks: August/September and April. The next cycle begins on 28 August 2006. For further information contact Dr Fidelma Butler, Department of Zoology, Ecology and Plant Science, UCC, Enterprise Centre, Distillery Field, North Mall, Cork; tel: (021) 4904648; email: f.butler@ucc.ie

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# ForestXchange: New approaches in knowledge management.

This international conference will take place from 25 - 27 October 2006 in Freiburg, Germany. Discussions at the forestXchange conference will deal with key concepts and emerging approaches in knowledge management in forestry, beyond the classical knowledge transfer methods. ForestXchange seeks to be a platform upon which new approaches for the valuation of and the exposure to knowledge in the field of forestry will be discussed, implications for the practical management of knowledge assets will be presented, and established ways of knowledge management will be critically examined.

The conference aims to take advantage of new theoretical approaches, conclusions, and experiences from the fields of communication theory and technology, sociology and knowledge management in forestry. Experts in forestry, knowledge management, and social sciences concerned with expert-layperson communications, community-building, and knowledge brokering will share their experiences. The conference covers theoretical, applied, social and technological aspects of knowledge management.

For further information, visit [www.forestxchange.org](http://www.forestxchange.org)

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# Seminar on developing bioenergy markets focusing on forest sector

Lappeenranta University of Technology, IEA Bioenergy Task 40, EUBIONET II, Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (Tekes) and ClimBus Technology Programme are jointly organising a seminar on developing bioenergy markets focusing on the forestry sector. The workshop will be held in Lappeenranta, Finland 24-25 October 2006. A two-day bioenergy study tour will take place in St. Petersburg after the seminar and this will be arranged by EUBIONET. A preliminary programme is available at <http://www.lut.fi/nordi/fin/yleista/seminaari2006.html>.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)

# RES Market Places

RES (Renewable Energy Supply) Market Places is a European Funded project with the ultimate aim of setting up a ‘virtual market place’ for consumers and suppliers in the renewable energy industry. This virtual market place is a website designed to help promote the use of renewable energy sources (RES) as well as energy efficiency (EE) measures in new construction projects in rural areas. Ireland is one of a number of countries taking part others include Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Each region has come together with the common goal of identifying the potential use of RES/EE in new construction projects and in the refurbishment of buildings. A regional web page has been launched, exclusively for the Irish market. The web page provides the latest information on renewable energy projects, including case studies and the contact details for product suppliers/manufacturers and consultants in the renewable energy sector. You can now upload information on your product or service or if you are involved in an RE project and you would like to showcase your efforts to a nationwide audience you can log onto [www.resmarketplaces.org/virtual](http://www.resmarketplaces.org/virtual) market places.

[Back to List of Contents](#_CONTENTS)