.

Forestry and Wood Update

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# COFORD/SEI voluntary register of wood fuels testing laboratories

COFORD and Sustainable Energy Ireland have extended a public invitation for submissions of an expression-of-interest application for inclusion on the COFORD/SEI voluntary register of wood fuels testing laboratories. The objective of the register is to facilitate the use of renewable wood fuels for heating and power generation industry in Ireland. It will list institutions with a capacity to carry out wood fuel testing to IS CEN/Technical Specifications for Solid Biofuels. The register will state that the member institutions carry out independent wood fuel testing to nominated IS CEN/Technical Specifications. The register will be publicly available at the COFORD and SEI web sites, and in other documentation. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 30 June 2007. Further application dates will be announced at a later stage. Applications should use the terminology set out in the *IS CEN/TS 14588: Solid biofuels - Terminology, definitions and descriptions.*

COFORD and SEI will, following review of the application and a site visit, jointly establish if an institution should be included on the register. The criteria for inclusion will be:

* scientific qualifications and experience of the personnel currently (or envisaged to be) engaged in wood fuels testing, including knowledge of sample collection, preparation and testing to the IS CEN Technical Specifications.
* current equipment and facilities available to carry out testing to the IS CEN technical specifications.
* experience in providing independent and confidential laboratory testing in general (to CEN and related standards).
* quality control and quality assurance systems in place.
* facilities to store and retrieve test results securely and rapidly.
* knowledge of the developing wood fuel market in Ireland.

Applications should be posted in hard copy format to: Ms Moira Rycraft, COFORD, Arena House, Arena Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18. Electronic copies of the tables should be submitted at the same time to: moira.rycraft@coford.ie. All applications will be acknowledged in writing. Forms and guidelines can be downloaded from [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie)

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# Wood biomass harvesting and supply chain workshop

The next wood biomass harvesting and supply chain workshop takes place at the Knockranny House Hotel on Monday 11 June 2007. The number of delegates is restricted to 20 and bookings are taken on a first come first served basis. The cost of attending the workshop is €150.00 and this fee includes all course materials and refreshments. If you would like to attend, please contact COFORD as soon as possible. The booking form is available to download from www.woodenergy.ie.

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# Forest Energy 2007 harvesting demonstrations

COFORD, Teagasc and WIT are continuing with the Forest Energy 2007 programme of demonstrations of thinning systems and machinery for cost-effective production of quality wood fuels. The final two demonstrations in the harvesting phase of the programme will take place this month:

* Tuesday 12 June 2007: First thinning of Sitka spruce at Aghagower, Co Mayo. Meet at the Aghagower Community Centre. Buses will depart from the meeting point from 12:00 to 1:00.
* Wednesday 20 June 2007: Vicarstown, Co Laois. Meet at the Vicarstown Community Hall (on Emo-Athy road). Buses will depart from the meeting point between 12:00 and 1:30.

See [www.woodenergy.ie](http://www.woodenergy.ie) for further information.

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# GROWFOR Workshops

The next workshop on the dynamic yield modelling and forest valuation system – GROWFOR – will take place on 21 June 2007, at the Teagasc Head office in Athenry, Co Galway. These are full-day workshops incorporating a short outdoor field exercise in the morning and a classroom session in the afternoon. The cost of becoming a registered GROWFOR user is €100. Limited spaces are available - please email growfor@coford.ie if you wish to attend. For more information about GROWFOR, visit the COFORD website and click on the GROWFOR tab (<http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/defaultarticle.php?cArticlePath=328>).

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# Bioenergy 2007

COFORD, Teagasc and Sustainable Energy Ireland’s Renewable Energy Information Office are presenting Bioenergy 2007 on Thursday 30 August 2007 at Oak Park, Carlow.

This major national one day get together on bioenergy is based on the unique *‘Taking you from Know-How to Show-How’* concept, combining a comprehensive technology and product exhibition with conference, seminar and workshop sessions, field excursions, site visits and practical demonstrations and all rolled into one comprehensive event.

The purpose of the event is to promote the use of solid biomass and raise awareness across all sectors from landowner to end user on the many uses and advantages in growing, harvesting and using wood fuels and energy crops for energy generation.

The Bioenergy 2007 exhibition will give visitors access to the latest product innovation from suppliers within the national bioenergy sector, displaying many pieces of machinery and equipment such as domestic pellet stoves and boilers, commercial wood pellet/chip boilers, chippers, residue bundlers to name but a few.

Exhibitors will have the opportunity to showcase and demonstrate their full range of products and services. The exhibition will be held in a tented village, centrally located and beside the field demonstrations. There will also be ample space to demonstrate various kinds of activities and machines such as chippers, slash bundlers and other equipment not suited to indoor operation.

If you are interested in participating as an exhibitor at this event, please contact Paul Dykes at SEI REIO, email pauld@reio.ie or tel: (0) 23 29185, 087 9978723

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# Hardwood Matters

COFORD publishes ***Hardwood Matters*** – the catalogue for advertising hardwood timber twice yearly. It is published in hard copy and the COFORD web site – and attracts a wide and growing audience in the forestry and timber processing sectors. If you are in the business of selling or buying hardwoods you can avail of the service free of charge by putting an entry in the next issue, which comes out in July 2007. The catalogue features “for sale” and “wanted” sections. Please contact John Fennessy (email john.fennessy@coford.ie) before Friday 29 June if you would like your timber to be advertised in the July 2007 issue. ***Hardwood Matters*** will also now be carried on TIMBERWeb, the global timber eMarket, [www.timberweb.com](http://www.timberweb.com).

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# Field Day - Joint COFORD/FDA Co-op/ITGA /SIF/Teagasc

This field day will take place in north Kildare on Friday 6 July and is part of the continuing programme of *Growing Quality Broadleaves*. The theme of this meeting is *‘Critical time for thinning, tending and respacing of young ash plantations and early management of broadleaved/conifer mixtures’.* Participants are invited to meet at 10.15 am at the Allen Community Hall, Kilmeague, Naas, Co Kildare. Allen Community Hall is approximately 1 mile from Kilmeague on the Miltown/Newbridge Road. Bus transportation will be provided from hall to and from the sites.

Morning Session: Newpark, Kilmeague, Co Kildare on the lands of Eddie Healy.

The first part of the field day will open with a discussion on time of first thinning of ash and the important issues to be considered at time of first thinning. This will be followed with a practical demonstration on the first thinning. A number of plots have been laid down on this ash site which was planted in 1995. Participants will initially be shown the marking of ash for first thinning with identification of potential final crop trees and subsequent marking of trees to be removed. The morning session will conclude with a visit to a thinned plot.

Leader: Dr Ian Short and Liam Kelly (Teagasc), John Fennessy (COFORD). Prof. Huss, former Professor of Silviculture, Freiburg University, Germany, and Prof. Joyce, former Professor of Forestry, University College Dublin, will be in attendance.

Lunch: 1.00 pm - please bring a picnic lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Afternoon Session: Meeting at 2 pm. T & E O Mahony's Forest, Pluckerstown, Milltown, Co Kildare (Bus transfer will also operate to/from the Pluckerstown site from Allen Community Hall).

Pluckerstown woodland was the winner of the 1994 RDS Irish Forestry Award and consists of 112 acres planted in 1989. Various interesting species mixtures have been planted incorporating ash, sycamore, oak with Norway spruce and also with some beech and cherry interplanted in areas. Sitka spruce is planted over the main body of the woodland. The broadleaves and broadleaved/conifer mixtures have been outperforming the Sitka spruce and while the spruce does not yet require thinning the broadleaved/conifer mixtures have been thinned, respaced, tended and pruned over the past year. The afternoon session will discuss planting history, species mixtures, early management and recent operations (thinning/respacing, pruning and tending) of the plantation. Roading and access issues for harvesting and extraction will also be discussed.

Leader: Donal Whelan, Technical Director ITGA. The kind co-operation and permission of Eddie Healy, Tom and Eddie O Mahony, COFORD and Teagasc in organising and hosting this field day is gratefully acknowledged.

For more details contact John Fennessy (email: john.fennessy@coford.ie)

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# COFORD Conference: Forestry, carbon and climate change – local and international perspectives

COFORD will be hosting a conference on forestry, carbon and climate change – local and international perspectives. The event will take place on Wednesday 19 September 2007 at the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downes, Co Wicklow. The programme includes the following presentations:

* Climate change, and energy policy – an economic perspective - John Fitzgerald, ESRI
* Ireland’s national climate change strategy - Owen Ryan, DoE
* Forests and the UNFCCC process – an overview and development of reporting structures - Jim Penman, DEFRA
* The role of forests in climate change policy in New Zealand - Peter Stevens, NZ DoE
* Global forests and international climate change research - Ricardo Valentini, University of Tuscia
* Ireland’s forest carbon reporting system - Kevin Black, FERS
* Forest soils – an important carbon reservoir - Ken Byrne, UCC
* Climate change adaptation and forests - Duncan Ray, Forest Research GB

You may express your interest in attending by emailing info@coford.ie.

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# New COFORD Connects notes

The latest set of COFORD Connects practical information notes has been distributed to subscribers. The notes are also available as pdfs to download from the COFORD website. The titles of this set of notes are:

* Where should Washington and Oregon sources of Sitka spruce be planted in Ireland?
* Provenances of beech best suited for Ireland.
* The importance of seed stands in broadleaved forestry.
* The potential of terrestrial laser scanning technology in pre-harvest timber measurement operations.
* Forest foliage.
* Structural timber design to Eurocode 5 (IS EN 1995-1-1) rules.
* Ordering and receiving wood chip fuel.
* Delivery and storage of wood chip fuel.
* The production of wood pellets.
* Simple ways to check wood pellet quality.

If you would like a complete set of notes in the purpose-made folder, please contact COFORD (email: info@coford.ie or tel: 01-2130735).

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# PLANFORBIO website

PLANFORBIO is the acronym for a research programme entitled **Planning and Management Tools for Biodiversity in a Range of Irish Forests**. This is a COFORD funded initiative that will run from 2007 until 2012. It aims to increase understanding of biodiversity in a variety of forest types in Ireland, and inform managment decisions to optimise the preservation of species diversity. The programme comprises a number of projects, i.e. Managing for biodiversity in a range of Irish forest types; Achieving effective rhododendron control; Optimum scenarios for Hen Harrier conservation in Ireland; Implementation of an assessment and monitoring programme for biodiversity in Irish and Scottish forests. The PLANFORBIO website can be accessed at [http://planforbio.ucc.ie](http://planforbio.ucc.ie/) or [www.ucc.ie/en/planforbio](http://www.ucc.ie/en/planforbio).The website contains information about the project partners, objectives, background and the projects that comprise this programme.

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# Carbon Corner

## Forestry and Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Climate change has been one of the main news stories during April and May as successive chapters of the fourth assessment report of the IPCC were released to the public domain. Chapter III, which deals with mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, was released on 4 May. The summary for policy makers is available at [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).

The report makes this overall assertion on forestry and its role in mitigating climate change: *Unlike many other sectors, forestry can contribute both to reducing emission sources and to increasing sinks. Due to the direct link between land-use decisions and sustainable development, forestry plays a key role when addressing the climate change problem in the broader context of global change and sustainable development. As a major form of land cover globally, hundreds of millions of households depend on the goods, services and financial values provided by forests.*

The words *key role* should not to be taken lightly, given that the report is a consensus view of all countries involved in the climate change process. No doubt the authors had the deforestation issue at the front of their minds when drafting the text, but the overall mitagatory effect of the broad range of forestry measures, including afforestation, are also addressed: *There is a lack of integrated assessments of carbon mitigation potential in the literature. Based on regional modeling assessments a gradually increasing mitigation impact of forestry measures is projected globally. By 2030 the economic potential of a combination of measures in afforestation, avoided deforestation, forest management, agroforestry, and bioenergy, could yield on average an additional sink of around 3150 MtCO2/yr (medium confidence). About 50% of this can be achieved at costs under 20$/tCO2 (= 1550 MtCO2/yr). This sink enhancement/emission avoidance will be located in the tropics for 65% (high confidence), be found mainly in above ground biomass, and for 10% achieved through bio energy (medium confidence).*

Irish forests will contribute about 0.1% to the envisaged 3150 Mt CO2/yr. While this is small in global terms, it is highly significant in terms of national compliance with Kyoto targets, and of conserving national carbon stocks, as set out in the Convention on Climate Change.

Looking to the future there are two key policy issues that need to be addressed at the national level to underpin the role of forests in climate change mitigation. The most obvious is the continuation of the afforestation programme – as has been argued in a number of *Carbon Corners*. Almost as important is the need to conserve and manage existing carbon stocks in a sustainable manner. Current proposals to remove the replanting obligation following clearfelling should, therefore, be very carefully examined before embarking on such a policy. It would be ironic indeed if deforestation were to increase in Ireland at a time when strenuous efforts are being made in many international fora to reduce deforestation in developing countries.

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# Eurpoean activities relevant to the forestry sector

InnovaWood has summarised recent activities in Europe relevant to the forestry sector. These include:

* FP7 first-call topics with opportunities for the forest-based industries are: Opportunities in the “People” sub-programme of FP7: Reintegration Grants and Career development fellowships.
* Co-ordination of research at National level: the ERA-NET. ERA-NETs are networks of national research funding programmes on specific subjects. Like FP7 they release calls for proposals for multinational research projects on specific topics. Different ERA-NETs have different participating countries from the entire European Research Area.
* Forest Technology Platform conference on Lead Markets. Lead Markets are markets in which EU industry can develop a global competitive advantage, provided that it gets support from the public sector as regulator, customer or facilitator
* News from Cordis. Including updates on projects in Europe, events, courses, and views from the European Commission.

More information on each of these topics is available in a single pdf file (161 kb). [Click here to download the pdf.](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/newsletter/Volume7/COFORD-supplement-May07.pdf)

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# UN Report Links Buildings to Climate Change

A report from the United Nations Environment Programme, entitled “*Buildings and Climate Change: Status, Challenges and Opportunities*” details connections between the building industry and efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions. According to the report, which focuses primarily on Europe, more rigorous energy efficiency standards could result in a reduction of one-fifth of the continent’s energy use and 45 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2010. The report emphasises policy, regulation and education as the primary means of pursuing green building efforts and recommends a global bench-marking that could be used to develop national and regional green building standards. For further information see [www.unepsbci.org](http://www.unepsbci.org)

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# Fifth Meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee

The fifth meeting of the EUFORGEN Steering Committee took place in Novo Mesto, Slovenia from Tuesday 22 to Thursday 24 May 2007. The meeting reviewed progress of the first half of EUFORGEN Phase III which covers the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2009. A number of issues were addressed, including:

* Mid-term technical and financial reports including current membership and possible future members.
* The need to conserve European forests at habitat, species and genetic resources level which has been recognised by the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) process. In EUFORGEN the various Networks are currently developing “Common Action Plans” or gene conservation units for the main European tree species.
* Discussion and recommendations for the second part of Phase III.
* Climate change and the implications for European forest genetic resources.
* The EUFORGEN input to the new MCPFE work programme.
* Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS).

 The EUFORGEN programme in Ireland is funded by the Forest Service and serviced by COFORD. Further information on EUFORGEN and its activities can be found at: [www.bioversityinternational.org](http://www.bioversityinternational.org)

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# Global Forest Information Service (GFIS)

IUFRO is leading the development of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS). Based on the feedback from users and information provider partners, IUFRO in co-operation with the other Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) core partners (CIFOR, FAO, NBII, the UNFF Secretariat) has upgraded the Global Forest information Service gateway.

The upgraded GFIS gateway was launched at the beginning of 2007 and now provides access to forest-related information through a single entry point at http://www.gfis.net. GFIS now offers a search tool to global forest information resources and also direct access to latest news, upcoming events, recent publications and job opportunities on the front page. The gateway also offers a search function for forest “Datasets and databases” and “Library and data collections”. The upgraded version of GFIS also gives more visibility to the information providers and partners of GFIS.

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# Farm Woodland Forum meeting

The Farm Woodland Forum meeting will take place from 26 to 28 June. The programme includes the following presentations:

* Patrick Cregg (The Woodland Trust). Space for nature: engaging the rural community
* Lindsay Easson (AFBI). Wood biomass crops for energy and agriculture
* Geraldine O’Sullivan (South Western Forestry Services). Farm Forestry, wood energy and the future.
* Dr Rosa Mosquera (Univ of Santiago de Compostela). A European perspective on silvopasture and waste nutrient management
* Michael Doran (Rural Generation Ltd.). The capacity of willow to consume effluents and sludges
* Tom Dutson (Univ of Central Lancashire). Getting over the fence: some farmers perceptions of wild Ennerdale
* Gerry Lawson (Research Councils UK). Trends in European timber and fuelwood markets and implications for the UK

The programme also includes field visits to the Agroforestry Unit, AFBI at Loughgall; Loughry College near Cookstown; Cookstown District Council Offices for presentation on renewable energy project, and to John Gilliland’s Renewable Energy Centre near Derry City; as well as the Annual General Meeting of the Farm Woodland Forum.

This meeting is aimed towards practitioners, advisers and researchers. The venue is Rural College, a purpose built educational/conference/recreational centre located in a state forest in the heart of Northern Ireland. For further information contact the conference organiser: Jim McAdam, email: jim.mcadam@afbini.gov.uk or see: [www.agroforestry.ac.uk](http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk)

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# IUFRO All Division 5 (Wood products) Conference

The 2007 IUFRO All-Division 5 (Forests Products) Conference "Forest Products and Environment - A Productive Symbiosis" will be held at the Taipei Grand Hotel, Taiwan, on 29 October to 2 November 2007. It is planned to bring together researchers in forest products and related fields from around the world to discuss current issues in supplying the rapidly increasing demands for forest products of all kinds, while maintaining forest resources for the full array of social, economic and environmental benefits.The Conference Committee has selected guest speakers from around the world (including the host country) to give keynote presentations on several topics. The bulk of the meeting will consist of up to 60 scientific sessions across 13 forest products disciplines, including fundamental aspects of wood formation and quality, energy and chemicals from forest biomass, wood processing, forest products marketing, non-wood forest products, and forest products education. Poster sessions will be presented differently from in the past - all posters will be exhibited during three days, and short verbal summaries will be presented at the end of each technical session.

To support more scientists for the conference, a Scientist Assistance Program (SAP) has been organized to receive and distribute funds generously donated by various organisations. So far, contributions have been received from USDA Forest Service (USFS), the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to support more than 25 scientists mainly from the developing countries. Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) through the effort of Dr Don K. Lee, the current President of IUFRO, has donated a significant sum of money to support young scientists in joining the conference - it is one of the IUFRO's new goals to encourage more young people to participate in international events such as this. IUFRO is still looking for donors to support more scientists as the conference preparations proceed. This year SAP will support 10 students from International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) to come to the conference. The students will assist during the conference while getting the opportunity to mingle with established scientists and present their own studies.

The IUFRO All Division 5 Conference is held every five years in a different location. It is anticipated that there will be 300 to 500 scientists from all over the world attending this international event. Online registration forms and other conference related information are available on the conference website at http://www.alldiv5iufro2007.org.tw/index.htm. For any questions about the conference, please contact the conference secretariat by email: iufro2007@gmail.com.

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# Rethinking the City: Tools for the New Century

On 15 June 2007 an all-Ireland training day for energy and climate planning will take place at the Cultivate Living & Learning Centre, Essex St West, Temple Bar, Dublin. This training is being promoted via the RIAI, Irish Design Institute, Irish Planning Institute, and Engineers Ireland (with CPD credits available). Innovations to be discussed include The Natural Step, The Merton Rule, The Fingal Directive, Imagineering - Futures Thinking Toolkit and The Mobility Management Toolkit. This day will also provide training for specific and more effective cross-sectoral working strategies. All details are at: <http://www.sustainable.ie/cultivate/learning/rethinking07.htm>

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# Opportunities and impacts of bioenergy policies and targets on the forest and other sectors

The UNECE Timber Committee in conjunction with the FAO European Forestry Commission is organizing this year's Policy Forum on *Opportunities and impacts of bioenergy policies and targets on the forest and other sectors - What is the future contribution of wood to meeting UNECE region's energy needs?* The event takes place on 10 October 2007 at Palais de Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The objectives are to inform policy and decision makers on wood energy policies and their impacts; and discuss the increasing demands of both the bioenergy sector and the wood-processing industry, and the mobilization of wood to satisfy both. For detailed information, please visit the website <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-65/policyforum/welcome.htm>

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# Energy and Environment Workshop

The new European financial instruments Energy and Environment international workshop will take place in Malta from 20-21 September 2007. The European Commission has launched a wide range of financial instruments to support the implementation of its policies, such as the “Sixth Environment Action Programme” and the “European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy”. Energy and Environment related projects will be directly financed from Brussells or through the national authorities of the Member States. The total volume of finances for the 2007-2013 period is significantly higher than during the previous years.

At the same time understanding the funding mechanisms is becoming increasingly complex and putting together proposals is also getting more and more difficult. There is now also an increased competition between the 25 EU countries. Proposals will require improved skills and competences from the project proposers.

Europa Media has developed an integrated workshop concept for CEOs and senior project managers. The workshop is meant for organisations that wish to take advantage of the new Energy and Environment related European financial instruments. The programme is structured around two pillars:

* Synthetised information on all the new programmes that is presented in a clear, understandable format
* Practical advice for project developers based on experiences gained from years of successful EC project development under the current funding schemes.

Further information is available at [www.eutrainingsite.com](http://www.eutrainingsite.com)

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# Wood – Source of material and energy

This international conference and InnovaWood meeting is organised by the Wood Technology Institute (ITD, Instytut Technologii Drewna), Poznan. The conference will be held in Poznan, Poland, from 25 to 26 June 2007. The official website for the conference with full details, brochure and registration form is <http://www.itd.poznan.pl/en/index.php?id=268>

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# Vacancies

## Green Belt Foresters

Green Belt Ltd is Ireland’s largest private forest management company and has planted over 170,000 acres of new forest since 1982. In addition to its core afforestation and forest management activities the company also operates subsidiaries in the renewable energy, property sales and overseas timberland investment sectors.

Green Belt Ltd currently requires a number of additional foresters to deal with its expanding planting, management and harvesting programme. This is an excellent opportunity for suitably motivated professionals to join a rapidly growing and dynamic company. If you possess a recognised forestry qualification and have some work experience, please reply, enclosing an up-to-date CV, in confidence to: H.R. Manager, Green Belt Ltd, Virginia, Co Cavan.

## Assistant Professor, Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Management

The Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, UW Madison has advertised the post of Assistant Professor, Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Management. Candidates should have research interests in one or more of the following areas: community forestry; collaborative and participatory resource management; social aspects of ecosystem management; social drivers and consequences of landscape change; risk perception and analysis in conservation; impacts of changing societal trends on the values and uses of forests and wildlife; state and non-state governance concerning ecosystem management, endangered resources, or sustainability. The successful candidate will be required to perform university and community service as appropriate. An earned doctorate with expertise in a social science such as forestry, geography, political science, sociology, resource economics or policy, or closely related field is required. The ability to apply social science concepts, models and theories to the study of natural resources, especially forests and wildlife, is essential. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States and have excellent English and communication skills. The successful candidate must complete her/his Ph.D. before appointment at the assistant professor level.

Information about the department and links to College and campus programs can be found at [www.forest.wisc.edu](http://www.forest.wisc.edu). Apply online at www.forest.wisc.edu by 15 September 2007. Direct inquiries should be addressed to Dr Nancy Langston, Search Chair, nelangst@wisc.edu

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