

PEFC forest management certification for woodland owners 2014



The international demand for certified forest products continues to grow rapidly and PEFC has grown in response. 250 million hectares of forest are now certified to PEFC endorsed standards, represented by over 750,000 forest owners. The rapid growth of PEFC to become the world's largest certification system and its popularity among family and community forest owners are a testament to the solid foundation on which PEFC is built and its importance in promoting sustainable forest management globally.

In addition, 16,000 companies have obtained PEFC Chain of Custody certification, demonstrating their commitment to responsible sourcing of certified products. Strong growth in demand for PEFC certified timber and wood based materials has been seen in many countries, including Ireland. Concerns surrounding possibly the two greatest challenges currently facing mankind, namely climate change and the energy crisis, have highlighted more than ever the importance attached to managing the world's forests responsibly. Sustainable forest management has a crucial role to play in combating global warming, and wood is an important component in the hunt for alternatives to fossil fuels. PEFC initiatives remain at the forefront in tackling these issues.

Further details, visit the PEFC Ireland website www.pefc.ie, or contact the National Secretary William Merivale at william@pefc.ie



*William Merivale,
National Secretary PEFC*

The last year has been a busy one in Ireland, especially with regard to forest management certification. The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), after achieving PEFC Chain of Custody accreditation during 2013, is to add Forest Management accreditation to its remit and has been working closely with Coillte on the State Forestry Company's application for PEFC certification. For private owners, work is well underway on laying the foundations of a Group Certification Scheme. It is anticipated this will be fully developed by mid 2014, after which it will be open to all owners whose forest management can be shown to be compliant with the PEFC Irish Forest Certification Standard.

A generous donation by an ITGA member and PEFC supporter enabled us to attend the 2013 General Assembly held in Kuala Lumpur. PEFC Ireland wishes to acknowledge that member's great kindness in facilitating our representation at this important event.