

PEFC forest management certification for woodland owners



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



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PEFC Ireland, the National Governing body of the PEFC Council in Ireland was formed in 2008 and has made significant progress over recent years. The number of companies awarded PEFC Chain of Custody certificates has further increased and Coillte Forest has been PEFC certified since 2014.

PEFC is the certification system of choice for small forest owners including family and community-owned forests. With 38 endorsed national certification systems and more than 300 million hectares of PEFC certified forests worldwide, including 750,000 forest owners, PEFC is the world's largest forest certification system which also involves thousands of companies with PEFC Chain of Custody Certification.

Reducing costs remains a constant challenge and to this end PEFC Ireland have been working on a joint project with PEFC UK to develop an online registration system designed to reduce paperwork and possibly the number of site visits required to be made by a group certification manager. This system has now been launched in the UK and is undergoing pilot testing in Ireland.

Concerns surrounding possibly the two greatest challenges currently facing mankind, climate change and the energy crisis, continue to highlight the importance attached to managing the world's forests responsibly. Verification of sustainable forest management has a vital role to play in this regard and PEFC initiatives remain at the forefront in tackling these issues.

Through innovative mechanisms for group and regional certification, PEFC supports small land owners to gain recognition in the market place thereby making a lasting contribution to livelihoods and rural development. To date, several hundred-thousand family- and community-owned forests have acquired PEFC certification.

PEFC certification is also favoured by numerous public and private timber procurement policies worldwide.