

# PEFC forest management certification for woodland owners



The PEFC Irish Forest Certification Standard was endorsed by PEFC International in December 2011, making it the first certification standard specifically designed for Irish forests to be endorsed by any scheme. Woodland owners can now apply to have the management of their forests certified under the PEFC Scheme and thereby ensure continuing access to all the key markets. Individual private owners preparing to harvest timber should consider joining one of the forest producer groups that is preparing a group certification scheme for its members. PEFC would be happy to provide you with information on this option at the contact address below.

A group scheme involves the pooling of resources for the benefit of all the members, thus effecting cost savings and ensuring that knowledge is shared. There must be a legally binding structure in place with a central office or manager responsible for ensuring that every member is compliant with the terms of the scheme, and that acts as the focal point for communication between the members and the certification body.

In addition to being essential for the marketing of timber, certification is a useful tool that helps owners to manage their forest enterprises better and more efficiently. It involves maintaining records and the preparation of comprehensive management plans, both of which should be considered integral to good woodland management.

PEFC Ireland can offer training courses to forest producer groups considering establishing group certification schemes.

## **PEFC chain of custody certification for wood processors**

A PEFC forest management certificate proves that the timber leaving a forest has been produced in accordance with best practice. Thereafter, in order to ensure traceability from the finished product back to the forest of origin, every actor in the manufacturing supply chain must have a PEFC chain of custody certificate. Many processors opt for dual (PEFC/FSC) certification, offered by most certification bodies at nominal extra cost, in order to allow them to process and market timber certified to either scheme.

For further details, log onto the PEFC Ireland website [www.pefc.ie](http://www.pefc.ie), or contact the National Secretary William Merivale at [william@pefc.ie](mailto:william@pefc.ie)



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