



PEFC forest management certification for woodland owners

Notwithstanding the frustrations and delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the last year has been a busy one for PEFC Ireland.

In addition to the PEFC certified Forestry Services Ltd. Group Scheme, Foraois Growth Ltd, one of the funds owned by Dasos, the Finnish forestry investment fund managed by Arbor Forest Management has also been awarded PEFC forest management certification. PEFC Ireland is continuing to work with several other forestry management companies on the development of their respective group schemes, most of which hoped to be PEFC certified by mid-2020. However their plans had to be put on hold due to the lockdown when on site audits for new certificates could not be permitted, although PEFC was able to implement protocols to allow for surveillance audits to be conducted remotely during these exceptional times. This also hampered those sawmills planning to apply for PEFC certification, though with on site audits resuming, for the time being at least, hopefully their plans can progress again.

At the time of writing, most of the proposed revisions to the PEFC Irish Forest Certification Standard have been drafted. There will follow a 60-day period of public consultation, following which the completed revised standard and PEFC Ireland Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management will be submitted to PEFC International for endorsement in early 2021.

Due to the pandemic we had to abandon plans to host the PEFC General Assembly and Certification Week in Dublin in 2020. The event has been postponed until November 2021 when it will be held at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, from 15-18th November, followed by a two day field trip to Wicklow and the Slieve Blooms. PEFC Certification Week has become one of the most significant events of its type worldwide and we are looking forward to this great opportunity to showcase Ireland's forestry industry.



William Merivale
National Secretary PEFC

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