

# FORESTRY AS A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION

The role of Ireland's forestry and forest products sector in  
mitigating climate change

## National Forestry Conference

organised by the

The Wood Marketing Federation and the Society of Irish Foresters

**Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield, Co. Meath,**

**Thursday, 30 May 2019**

THIS MAJOR conference features presentations by a diverse cross section of Irish and international experts who will explore the role that forestry can play in climate change mitigation. Forests are the greatest natural stores of carbon on the planet as they absorb atmospheric carbon through photosynthesis and sequester it in living and dead biomass and in the soil. The total carbon reservoir or store in Irish forests currently exceeds one billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, most of which is in the soil. However, the carbon storage benefits of wood continue after it leaves the forest because timber products also store carbon – approximately 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> per m<sup>3</sup> of timber – during their life cycle.

Forestry is the single biggest contributor in helping Irish agriculture, industry and transport to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) targets. As Irish agriculture is the largest contributor to Ireland's GHG emissions, there are opportunities for forestry play a role alongside agriculture in climate change mitigation. Ireland is unique in Europe as it is the only country that can increase forest cover substantially – from 11% of the land area to 17% by 2050 – without negatively impacting on agriculture and food security.

The conference features a diverse range of speakers including Michael Creed TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Andrew Doyle, Minister of State with responsibility for forestry, Justin McCarthy, Editor and Chief Executive, Irish Farmers Journal, Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive, Confederation of Forest Industries UK – Confor, Marina Conway, Forest Industries Ireland and Western Forestry Co-op and Prof. Gerry Boyle, Director, Teagasc. Further speakers will be announced by April 4. The speakers will draw comparisons with international best practice and provide analysis and recommendations on the role Ireland's forestry and the forest products sector can play in mitigating climate change.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** The conference is aimed at stakeholders involved in the forestry and forest products industry and related sectors as well as key policy makers in agriculture and other land use, energy, industry and transport. It will have relevance to forest owners, farmers, foresters and forestry companies, researchers, State agencies, local authorities, timber processors, architects, engineers and end users interested in sustainable building and design.

Supported by COFORD, the National Council for Forest Research & Development, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Coillte and the Irish Farmers Journal

**Registration fee is €100 to include meals during conference from 8.30am to 3.30pm and special edition conference book.**

**You may pay by cheque (payable to “Society of Irish Foresters”) or by transfer payment to:**

**Bank Account: Society of Irish Foresters.**

**Bank Name & Address: Ulster Bank, 130 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2**

**BIC:ULSB IE 2D**

**IBAN: IE25 ULSB 9850 2008 7720 46**

Further information:

Pat O'Sullivan, Technical Director, SIF, + 353 86 2582240

e: [info@soif.ie](mailto:info@soif.ie)

[www.societyofirishforesters.ie](http://www.societyofirishforesters.ie)

Donal Magner, Secretary, WMF + 353 86 2607883

e: [info@wood.ie](mailto:info@wood.ie)

[www.wood.ie](http://www.wood.ie)