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Regional Networks for the development of a Sustainable Market for
Bioenergy in Europe



D5.4: Proceedings of the workshop in Ireland

Acknowledgements

This report has been produced as part of the project BioRegions. The logos of the partners cooperating in this project are shown below and more information about them and the project is available on www.bioregions.eu



The work for this report has been performed by Patrick Daly for and behalf of Westmeath Community Development

The sole responsibility for the content of this report lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EACI nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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1. Introduction

Time and place of the workshop:

The workshop was held on Thursday 7th March 2013 at conference facilities in the Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, Ireland. The workshop comprised morning seminars and discussion and Q & A over lunchtime.

Target Group:

The target group included representatives of key local / national agencies, local authorities, rural development agencies and partnerships, farming associations, media, commercial organisations, farmers, foresters, biomass suppliers, technology providers, energy companies.

2. Implementation of the Workshop

The workshop was organised by the Irish partners, Westmeath Community Development Ltd. A comprehensive marketing campaign was undertaken with all companies, entities and institutions from the stakeholder's database of the target region invited to the workshop, including attendees of first and second workshop and specific circulation across local authorities and rural development partnership. The event was advertised in the local newspaper Westmeath Examiner and Westmeath Independent on (19th February 2013).

Participants of the workshop were drawn from across the main stakeholder categories and representatives of local authorities and rural development groups as well as Individuals and commercial organisations active in the field with a total of 38 attendees.

The workshop involved a morning seminars / presentations focusing on development of bioregions and a lunchtime discussion, q and a and networking occasion over refreshments.

A register of attendees was held and interest in the development of Bioenergy regions was captured via an expression of interest questionnaire of which 10 were completed.

3. Minutes of the Workshop

The event was chaired by Joe Potter CEO of Westmeath County Council

Presentations:

Presentation 1 **Establishing and Promoting BIOREGIONS** was presented by energy consultant Patrick Daly who gave an overview of the Bioregions concept and a road map for communities / regions based on the experience of the Bioregions Project.

Presentation 2 **Enabling Bioenergy development through local policy and action** by Dr Helen McHenry of the Western Development Commission, gave a talk on developing local policy and actions to support and enable the bioenergy sector.

Presentation 3 **An Islands Perspective** by Dr Shirley Gallagher, gave an overview of developing a multi-stakeholder sustainable energy community and various bioenergy initiatives in an Islands context.

Presentation 4 **Funding Opportunities for Project Creation** by Michael Papapetrou who gave an overview of possible EU Funding opportunities for Bioregional projects.

Presentation 5 **Case Studies** gave an update and overview of some examples projects in the region. Charles Shires of Board na Mona gave an update on Co – Firing at their plant in Offally, Liam Kelly of Teagasc gave an update on biomass resources promotion, John Keely an agricultural consultant gave an update on Popular SRC trials, and Vincent Leavy of Next Gen heat gave an overview of Biomass boiler applications in the county.

Outcomes:

The workshop raised the profile of bioenergy and the Bioregions project nationally and drew important interest in developing other regions from organisations across the country.

Annex 1: Agenda of the Workshop

BIOREGIONS FINAL WORKSHOP No 3

Promoting BIOENERGY REGIONS

BIOREGIONS Seminar and Workshop Thursday 7th March 9.00 – 1.30
The Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, Ireland

Westmeath Community Development, acting as the Irish partner in the EU BIOREGIONS project, would like to invite all stakeholders, agencies, organisations and persons active or interested in the development of the Bioenergy sector or projects to attend and participate in a seminar and workshop on the development of Bioenergy Regions in Ireland. **The seminar will focus on the concept of Bioenergy Regions, routes to establishment, benefits, funding opportunities and case example of regions and projects.**

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 9.00 | Registration - Bloomfield House Hotel, Co Westmeath | WCD team. |
| 9.15 | Welcome and Introduction By Joe Potter CEO of WCD, who will chairing the proceedings for the day. | Joe Potter CEO WCD |
| 9.30 | Establishing and Promoting BIOREGIONS What are Bioregions, Establishing a Bioregion - Westmeath example, Action Planning <i>Patrick Daly is a sustainable energy specialist and consultant to WCD.</i> | Patrick Daly BIOREGIONS |
| 10.15 | Enabling Bioenergy development through local policy and action Developing local policy and actions to support and enable the bioenergy sector. <i>Dr Helen McHenry is a policy analysis with the Western Development Commission</i> | Dr Helen McHenry WDC |
| 11.00 | Break – Coffee / Tea | |
| 11.15 | Funding Opportunities for Project Creation Exploring EU Funding opportunities for Bioregional projects. Michael Papepetrou is an EU project co-ordinator and tender writer. | Michael Papepetrou WIP |
| 11.45 | An Islands Perspective An overview of developing a multi-stakeholder sustainable energy community and various bioenergy initiatives in an Islands context. <i>Dr S Gallagher is working with IRDA Energy project involving 6 Irish and Danish Islands</i> | Dr Shirley Gallagher SysPro Systems for Progress Ltd |
| 12.15 | Project Case Examples An overview of Irish bioenergy projects - resources, biomass supply, boilers, etc. | Various |
| 1.00 | Open Forum An open forum discussion and question and answer session | Panel |
| 1.30 | Networking and Refreshments | ALL |

Places are limited and Registration is required – to register contact Patrick Daly at pd@patrickdaly.net

For further Information on the BIOREGIONS project visit www.bioregions.eu or contact Patrick Daly at pd@patrickdaly.net

Annex 3: Photos from the Workshop



Annex 4: Media presence

Front Page Advert and Detailed inset in Westmeath Examiner and Westmeath Independent – 13th Feb 2013



The advertisement features a header with three images: a night view of a church, the Westmeath County Council logo, and a landscape with trees. Below this is a blue banner with the text 'WESTMEATH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'. The main title is 'PROMOTING BIOENERGY REGIONS BIOREGIONS Seminar & Workshop' in large, bold, blue letters. The date and time are 'Thursday 7th March 9.00am – 1.30pm'. The location is 'The Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, Ireland'. The text describes the seminar's focus on Bioenergy Regions, including routes to establishment, benefits, funding opportunities, and case studies. It includes contact information for Patrick Daly and a registration link. The bottom section features the 'bioregions.eu' logo, the 'BIOREGIONS' logo, and the 'INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE' logo with the EU flag.

WESTMEATH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**PROMOTING BIOENERGY REGIONS
BIOREGIONS Seminar & Workshop**
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 **bioregions.eu**

BIOREGIONS

Supported by
**INTELLIGENT ENERGY
EUROPE** 

Post Workshop Media Report - Westmeath Examiner Saturday 23rd March 2013

WE WANT THE 33% BIOREGIONAL TARGET

'Westmeath very energy inefficient' – Patrick Daly

Westmeath is going to fail to reach its target of meeting 33 per cent of its regional energy demand from sustainable bioenergy sources by next year.

"The target is not feasible," bioenergy consultant, Patrick Daly, told a national seminar at the Mullingar Park Hotel on Thursday week last, aimed at outlining the strategy of promoting bioenergy regions in Ireland.

Westmeath is one of 13 'Bioregions' throughout Europe participating in a three-year project funded by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The aim of the project is to develop bioenergy regions in which 33 per cent of the energy demand would be met from sustainable bioenergy sources.

However, Mr Daly told the seminar, given Westmeath's low starting base, the target is not achievable within the allotted three-year timeframe.

"It's easier for our European partners to achieve the 33 per cent target, because they are using less energy than we are: we're very energy inefficient, so that needs to be prioritised," he explained.

He went on to describe the target as a "major challenge", and recommended that it be considered a "more long-term goal" for the region.

The project, run in Westmeath by Westmeath Community Development, established that while other regions had greater areas of forestry, which gives greater biomass

potential, in Westmeath's case, the major resources with potential were grass and slurry waste, as a feedstock for technologies such as anaerobic digestion.

In addition, the area should optimally manage its maturing forestry resource to ensure full utilisation in the future.

Mr Daly explained that the partner region with which this area had done most work was Achantal in Bavaria. "One of the key aspects we found was the significance of the biomass trading centre they have, which has a capacity for 1,400 tonnes of biomass," he explained, adding that the biomass is used both in a commercial district heating facility, and also by domestic consumers.

Mr Daly advised the gathering that areas looking to establish a bioregion needed to identify and engage with key stakeholders, such as utility providers, local authorities, state agencies, rural development organisations, business networks, financial institutions, industry, technology providers, the farming community, tourism interests, the media, designers, contractors and entrepreneurs.

In Westmeath's case, the key stakeholders involved in the project are Westmeath Community Development Ltd, Westmeath County Council, Teagasc, Bord na Motha, the IFA, the Irish Bioenergy Association, Mullingar Chamber of Commerce, Westmeath Forestry Growers Group, Thomas Flynn and Son, Biotricity and



At a seminar at the Mullingar Park Hotel on Thursday week, promoting Bioenergy Regions in Ireland, based on the Westmeath experience, were, from left, Paddy Donnelly, Westmeath IFA, Tony McCormack, Westmeath Community Development, and Patrick Daly, of the Westmeath Bioregion.

Next Gen Heat.

A difficulty in the early stages lay in determining levels of energy usage, and from where that energy derived, Mr Daly said, adding that as a result, figures had to be extrapolated from national data sources.

In the case of the biomass sector, data availability was even more limited, but the exercise of compiling the data was essential for benchmarking and profiling of the energy situation.

Mr Daly said that the total estimated theoretical energy potential from all available resources would be 597,643 MWh per annum, representing 22 per cent of the county's total estimated energy consumption.

However, based on their figures, only around 102,338 MWh is actually available from such sources in Westmeath, while the target figure is 497,624 MWh.

Mr Daly told the gathering that the transition to biomass for heating purposes is a direction in which the county could go: at present, just 4.5 per cent of the county's heat-

ing requirements are met from biomass.

"The local study raised some serious questions about national targets," he said.

At local level, he explained, the stakeholder consultation process, undertaken while developing the action plan, proposed that a more realistic target should be set to promote the initial development of this emerging sector.

Dr Helen McHenry, of the Western Development Commission and Rasres.eu (Regional Approaches to Stimulating Local Renewable Energy Solutions), spoke of the Galway experience, and pointed out to the gathering that bioenergy would always be a very local industry, primarily because of the transport costs.

She agreed with Mr Daly that Ireland will find it difficult to meet its national bioenergy target of sourcing 44 per cent of its energy from bioenergy sources by 2020.

What needed discussion, she continued, was which type of energy should come from bioenergy fuels - heat, electricity or transport.



At the seminar at Bloomfield House Hotel on Thursday week last, organised by the Westmeath Bioregion, were, from left, Charlie Shier, Bord na Mona Power Gen; Brian Smyth, Biotricity, Rhode; and Patrick Daly, of Westmeath Community Development.



From left, Dan Grehan, Westmeath Community Development, and PJ Fitzpatrick, Colliette, at Bloomfield House Hotel on Thursday week last for the seminar promoting bioregions, based on the experience of Westmeath, which is part of a three-year European bioregions project.



Among those who were at the seminar at the Bloomfield House Hotel on Thursday week last were, from left, Stephen Hynes, Triskel Teagasc, and Vincent Leavy, Next Gen Heat, Kesh.

Annex 5: Expressions of Interest



PROMOTING BIOENERGY REGIONS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

'BioRegions' is a three year inter European project, funded by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme, seeking to promote the development of 'bioenergy regions' across Europe, which are regions where a significant portion of the energy demand is met by sustainable bioenergy sources.

Westmeath Community Development, acting as the Irish partner in the EU BIOREGIONS project, would like to invite all stakeholders, agencies, organisations and persons active or interested in the development of the Bioenergy sector to express their interest in the development of a Bioenergy Region in their community, county or region by completion of the following questionnaire.

| | |
|--|--|
| Name: DAN Role: O'SULLIVAN Lecturer/Researcher | Organisation: Institute of Technology Carlow Contact Details: dan.osullivan@itcarlow.ie |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Is your organisation interested? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Don't Know | |
| What is the Region? South east | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region what would be supportive? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please list.... Teagasc, Coimte, various private companies | |
| Has any background work being done to date that might support such an initiative? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please describe.... Ongoing research on biomass supply chains & implementation | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to your or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe Networking with other interested parties | |
| SIGNED: D. O'Sullivan | DATE: 6/3/13 |

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Westmeath Community Development, acting as the Irish partner in the FII BIOREGIONS project, would like to invite a range of stakeholders, agencies, organisations and persons active or interested in the development of the Bioenergy sector to express their interest in the development of a Bioenergy Region in their community, county or region by completion of the following questionnaire.

| | |
|--|---|
| Name: <i>C. ADAM TRACEY</i> Role: <i>County Planning Officer</i> | Organisation: <i>Lisheen County Council</i> Contact Details: <i>071.9650455 (Home line) ctracey@lisheencc.ie</i> |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Is your organisation interested? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know | |
| What is the Region? <i>North West</i> | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region that would be supportive? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please list... <i>South Central Greater Area Network - Naas Hope Park Enniskillen Co. Wick</i> | |
| Has any background work been done to date that might support such an initiative? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please describe... <i>yes Working on Draft Energy Strategy for inclusion in County Development Plan also iCBAN developing Vision Plan of 2013-2025 to include development of renewables</i> | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to you or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe <i>Involvement from adjoining local authorities eg. Sligo Co. Donegal etc. Involvement of local branches of I.F.A.</i> | |
| SIGNED: <i>C. Adam Tracey</i> | DATE: <i>6/3/2013</i> |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Name: PAT STEPHENS Role: MANAGER ENERGY AGENCY | Organisation: LIMERICK CLARE ENERGY AGENCY. Contact Details: PAT STEPHENS |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Is your organisation interested? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know | |
| What is the Region? MID-WEST REGION / SOUTHERN REGION | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region what would be supportive? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please list... CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL - CLARE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT Co., LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL - CLARE WOOD ENERGY PROJECT LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL - WEST CLARE RENEWABLES MIDWEST REGIONAL AUTHORITY - UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK - Limerick Inst. of Technology | |
| Has any background work being done to date that might support such an initiative? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please describe... Energy + Emissions Balance - 2010 - Clare + Limerick Climate Change Strategy + Action Plan - 2010 - Clare + Limerick MID WEST Biomass Action Plan - 2008. CLARE RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY - 2013 | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to your or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe ON going technical support on:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource mapping, Quality + Quantity. • Demand (thermal / CHP) Mapping • Regional Cooperation on Resource + Infrastructure. | |
| SIGNED: Pat Stephens | DATE: 13/3/13 |

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PROMOTING BIOENERGY REGIONS

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| | |
|---|--|
| Name: <i>Bill Bonnell</i> | Organisation: <i>Westmeath forestry group</i> |
| Role: <i>Landowner</i> | Contact Details: <i>CONNELL.CIAN@gmail.com</i> |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? <u>Yes</u> No Don't Know Is your organisation interested? Yes No Don't Know | |
| What is the Region? | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region what would be supportive? Yes No Don't Know Please list.... | |
| Has any background work being done to date that might support such an initiative? Yes No Don't Know Please describe.... | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to your or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe | |
| <i>Bill Bonnell</i> SIGNED: | <i>7 March 2013</i> DATE: |

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| | |
|--|---|
| Name: <i>Siom Kelly</i> | Organisation: <i>Teagasc</i> |
| Role: <i>Forest Adviser</i> | Contact Details: <i>087 9090495 siom.kelly@teagasc.ie</i> |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? Yes No Don't Know | |
| Is your organisation interested? Yes No Don't Know <i>Yes - Biomass</i> | |
| What is the Region ? | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region what would be supportive? Yes No Don't Know | |
| Please list... <i>Forest Contractors Forest Owner Groups</i> | |
| Has any background work being done to date that might support such an initiative? Yes No Don't Know | |
| Please describe.... <i>Forest owner Groups formulated</i> | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to your or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe | |
| SIGNED: <i>Siom Kelly</i> DATE: <i>7/3/13</i> | |

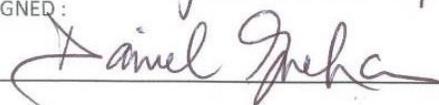
For further information on the BIOREGIONS project visit www.bioregions.eu or contact Patrick Daly at pd@patrickdaly.net



PROMOTING BIOENERGY REGIONS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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| | |
|--|---|
| Name: DAN GREHAN Role: ENTERPRISE OFFICER | Organisation: WESTMEATH COMMUNITY DEVELOP Contact Details: D.GREHAN@WESTCD.IE 086.0442357 |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Is your organisation interested? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Don't Know | |
| What is the Region? BALLYRAGONE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region what would be supportive? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please list.... Mean Mr Jerome ?? | |
| Has any background work being done to date that might support such an initiative? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please describe.... LEADER | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to your or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe SETTING up Co-Op Approach to growing & Pelleting R.E. Crops eg: WILLOW | |
| SIGNED:  | DATE: 7th / 3 / 13 |

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| | |
|--|--|
| Name: <i>KATIE Knowley</i> Role: <i>Development officer</i> | Organisation: <i>IRD Duhallow</i> Contact Details: <i>Duhallow@eircom.net</i> <i>029-60633</i> |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Is your organisation interested? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know | |
| What is the Region? <i>Duhallow North West Lede, East Kerry</i> | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region what would be supportive? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please list... <i>I would say other agencies would be interested.</i> | |
| Has any background work being done to date that might support such an initiative? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Don't Know Please describe.... <i>NOT AS FAR AS I'M AWARE.</i> | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to your or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe <i>Possibly A presentation to our Management team: Agriculture working & Environment working groups which are made up of many of the stakeholders which would be relevant to a potential Bio Energy project</i> | |
| SIGNED: <i>Katie Knowley</i> | DATE: <i>1/5/13.</i> |

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| | |
|--|--|
| Name: STEPHEN HYNES | Organisation: TRISKEL TECHNOLOGY |
| Role: DIRECTOR | Contact Details: stephenh@campus.ie / triskeltechnology@gmail.com |
| Are you interested in establishing a BioEnergy Region in your community, county or region? Yes No Don't Know Is your organisation interested? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes No Don't Know | |
| What is the Region? WESTMEATH & cork | |
| Are there other persons, agencies, organisations in the region what would be supportive? Yes No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Don't Know Please list.... | |
| Has any background work being done to date that might support such an initiative? Yes No Don't Know Please describe..... WESTMEATH - YES cork - I DO NOT KNOW | |
| What further support or help would be of assistance to your or your organisation in initiating a BioEnergy Region? Please list and describe • ORGANISATION TEMPLATE • CLEAR SET OF OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES / MISSION STATEMENT • SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - where done before / TECHNICAL OUTCOMES / BENEFITS | |
| SIGNED:  | DATE: 07th MARCH 2013 |

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Hi Patrick,

My business is similar to Next Gen who I believe is already working with the Westmeath group, I don't have the software to complete the survey and email it to you so I will try to provide the answers here if that is any help to you.

Name: Peter Crawley

Role: M.D.

Organisation: Eco Warm Homes

Contact: info@ewh.ie

Are you interested...: Yes

Region: Meath / Dublin / Parts of Kildare

Persons/ Organisations / Supportive agencies: Don't know

Any background work done: Don't know

What support / help required: Everything from the start as far as I know.

Peter Crawley.