

From: McCauley Wood Fuels <mccauleywoodfuels@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday 7 February 2019 16:40
To: rses
Subject: RSES Submissions
Attachments: Forest Industries Ireland - Think Forests PDF.pdf; IFFPA Timber value forecast 2018 FINAL.pdf

I refer to the Draft RSES and wish to submit the following observations.

Great job on putting together the RSES. It's a very well presented document and gives good insight into the overall extent of activities and the further potential in the region.

I want to specifically make a submission related to the forestry Section on Page 219. I feel that what is presented is a little light and not truly showing the full scale and importance of the forestry industry, nor the sawmilling and biomass industries which rely on it.

I would like to highlight a few points that should be considered and included in the next draft:

- The importance and potential of the indigenous biomass industry needs to be highlighted more, particularly as Ireland struggles to meet it's 2020 RES-H targets, as we aim for 2030 target, and as we move more towards a bioeconomy.
- Nationally, there are approximately 12,000 people working in the industry with a 2.6Bn contribution to the economy – all of which is going into rural Ireland.
- There are 4,210 people working in forestry in the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area, the majority of which are in rural locations. Cavan 380, Donegal 545, Leitrim 565, Galway 950, Mayo 700, Monaghan 120, Roscommon 505, Sligo 445. Source: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- 4,081 farmers in the NWRA area received €18,518,420 in forest premium payments in 2017. Source: Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.
- Apart from the sawmilling industry, panel board production and wood fuel processors, there are a number of other significant industries and service providers in the region as a result of the forest industry - including harvesters, transport, fuel suppliers, maintenance contractors, and boiler operators.

I manage my family wood fuel processing business McCauley Wood Fuels in Mohill, Co. Leitrim. Here we process locally grown forestry pulpwood into biomass fuel for wood chip boiler primarily in the North-West and Midlands regions.

Currently, we process enough biomass every week that can displace the use over 120,000 Litres of oil for heat energy - And we are just one small business operating in this space.

We have supplied biomass fuel to Hotels in Donegal, Poultry farmers in Mayo, Piggeries in Cavan, Mushroom growers Monaghan and Fruit growers in Dublin. They use biomass to reduce their reliance on oil, mitigating against fuel cost fluctuations, while also reducing their carbon footprint and retaining money in the Irish economy. Within the county itself, some long-established industrial facilities greatly utilise biomass, with examples near Carrick-on-Shannon and another near Drumshanbo. Smaller commercial facilities also use biomass, such as the leisure centre in Carrick-on-Shannon.

If you require any further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

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