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FSC Ireland hosts a public consultation day on the new Draft Irish Standard for Forest Certification

FSC Ireland is hosting a public consultation day to gather views on the new Draft Irish Standard for Forest Management Certification, which was launched recently. The new Standard sets out measures to ensure the responsible management of certified forests in Ireland, and comments are sought from all interested parties. The consultation event, on Saturday 26th September, will be held at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, and will run from 11am to 6pm. Members of the public are free to attend at a time that suits them. There will be information about FSC International and FSC Ireland, what can be gained from sustainable forestry, and details of the new Draft Irish Standard at the event. Members of FSC Ireland representing environmental, economic and social interests will be present. A brief formal presentation in the afternoon will be followed by an open plenary discussion on the new Draft Irish Standard, where views and feedback will be noted. Feedback on the Draft Standard can also be made in writing (or electronically). A new slideshow presentation introducing FSC and explaining how and why the Draft Standard was developed can be found at www.irishforestcertification.com where the Draft Standard document is also available.

Dublin, Ireland, September 14th, 2009

FSC Ireland recently published a new Draft Irish Standard for Forestry Management Certification. This Standard interprets the core set of the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Principles and Criteria to describe how forests have to be managed **within Ireland** to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. Between now and the 23rd October 2009 anyone with an interest in Irish forestry and/or responsible forest management is invited to examine the Draft Standard and submit their comments. The Draft Standard will be revised following consideration of these comments, before approval from the FSC International is sought. The Draft Standard document can be viewed and downloaded at www.irishforestcertification.com.

Public Consultation Day

To encourage all interested parties to make their views known on the new Draft Standard, FSC Ireland is hosting a public consultation day on **Saturday 26th September, from 11am** in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore.

The event will run all day and anyone with an interest is welcome to drop in at a time that suits them during the day. Information on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC International), on FSC Ireland and on the new Draft Standard will be available, as well as on what benefits certification for sustainable forestry can deliver. Members of FSC Ireland representing social, environmental and economic interests will be available to talk with visitors on the day. Anyone with an interest in forestry is welcome to attend, and to give their feedback at any point throughout the day.

There will be a brief formal presentation at 2pm introducing FSC and its work, explaining the background to the new Draft Irish Standard, and introducing the document. This will be followed by an open plenary discussion, where a record of contributions will be kept and which will be referred to when the Draft Standard is reviewed following the consultation period.



Explanatory Slideshow on the Web

A simple introduction and background slideshow about FSC and the new Draft Standard is available on the FSC Ireland website, at www.irishforestcertification.com. Anyone unable to attend the public meeting will find this a useful way to find out about the reason for forest certification and how it is done. Feedback on the Draft Standard (the document is also found on the FSC Ireland website www.irishforestcertification.com) can be made directly to consultation@irishforestcertification.com. All feedback is of equal importance and will be considered when the Draft Standard is reviewed.

Feedback to inform Standard review

The Draft Irish Standard for Forest Management Certification represents the outcomes of challenging negotiations between economic, environmental and social interests involved in forestry in Ireland. Negotiations have been challenging and sometimes fraught, but the Draft Standard presented now for public consultation is the product of extensive work and commitment from all interests.

FSC Ireland is keen to hear the views of all interested parties, in order to be able to generate the best possible final revised Draft Standard to submit to the Forest Stewardship Council. Comments can be made directly from the link on the website www.irishforestcertification.com where the Draft Standard document can also be found. Hard copies of the document can be obtained from the contact below. The consultation period is open until **October 23rd** 2009. All the comments received will then be taken on board as the Draft Standard is reviewed.

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