





Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA) ~ National Bioenergy Conference 2026 – Solid Biomass

From Resource to Resilience: Biomass fuelling Ireland's energy future

Thursday 7th May 2026, The Killashee Hotel, Naas, County Kildare

Conference Chairperson – Seán Finan, CEO, IrBEA

8.30 - 09.30	Registration and Networking		
9.30 - 10.00	Opening Session: Opening Welcome and Address		
	Speaker	Role, organisation	Topic
	Maurice Ryan	IrBEA President, Director of Business Development, Green Belt	Opening welcome
	Minister Timmy Dooley T.D.	Minister of State at DAFM & DCEE	Opening address
10.00 - 10.45	Session One: Setting the scene – The biomass opportunity and overview		
	Ileana Repaci	Policy Officer, Bioenergy Europe	Overview of the European Biomass Policy Landscape
	Noel Gavigan	Technical Executive, IrBEA	Biomass in Ireland – Decarbonising industrial, commercial and domestic heating
	Q&A Session		
10.45 - 11:20	Networking Tea and Coffee		
11.20 - 11.40	Session Two: Supporting the delivery of renewable heat		
	Fergus Sharkey	Head of Business Supports, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	Delivering renewable heat in Ireland through business supports and the SSRH
11:40 - 12.10	Panel One: The biomass policy and support landscape		
	Seán Kinsella	Principal Officer, Dept of Climate, Energy and the Environment	Renewable heat policy development update – SSRH, RHO and district heating
	Niamh Brennan	Senior Policy Executive, Irish Farmers Association	The role of farmers in the bioeconomy and biomass supply chain
	Dominic Schöne	Senior Executive Sustainability Capital Projects, Enterprise Ireland	Financial supports for biomass heating systems
	Eugene Hendrick	Chairman, Wood Fuel Quality Assurance (WFQA)	Carbon accounting from biomass and the ETS Sector
	Ileana Repaci	Policy Officer, Bioenergy Europe	European policy and impact on Ireland
12.10 - 13:00	Session Three: Biomass use and adoption across the sectors		
	Des O'Toole	Head of Marketing & Promotion, Coillte Forest	Decarbonising Industrial Heat - The strategic role of biomass in the pharmaceutical sector
	Ken Worrell	Managing Director and Founder, Worrell Timber Group	Wood chip, a low-cost fuel for renewable energy at scale and energy security
	Ian McCracken	Business Development Manager, Balcas Energy	Wood pellets and industrial powder burning systems
	Q&A Session		
13.00 - 14.15	Networking Lunch		

14:15 - 14.55	Session Four: Updates and developments in the Irish Biochar Sector		
	Professor JJ Leahy	University of Limerick	Outlining the Just Transition funded BIOCHAR Project and the opportunities for this sector in Ireland
	Stephen McCormack	R&D Project Manager, IrBEA	Innovation in Biochar - IrBEA's continued Interreg NWE project journey
	Q&A		
14.55 - 15.15	Session Five: Demonstrating biomass technology deployment		
	Akko Rattink	International Sales Manager, Kara Energy Systems	Biomass technology - Latest innovations and developments
15:15 - 15.50	Panel Two: Showcasing the role of supply chains, best practice and innovation in the sector		
	Kenny McCauley	Founder of McCauley Wood Fuels	A WFQA supplier's perspective
	Joseph Spollen	Biomass Manager, BnM	A large biomass user's perspective in Ireland and its role in mobilising the supply chain
	Ivan Sproule	Engineering Consultant, Sproule Energy Consulting	Biomass in the commercial sector - A consultant's perspective
	Paula Lynch	SEAI Programme Manager Business Supports - SSRH	The SSRH role in growing the adoption of biomass and development of the supply chain
	Paddy Phelan	CEO, South East Energy Agency	A regional context for biomass use
15:50 - 16.00	Ger Crosse, Vice President, IrBEA - Conference closing address		
Speakers Biographies			<p>#irbeaconf26</p> <p>www.nationalbioenergyconference.ie</p> <p>www.wfqa.org</p> <p>www.irbea.org</p> 

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