

The United Nations has designated 2011 International Year of the Forests; a year when the world celebrates people's role in the management and conservation of forests.

It has invited Governments, UN members, conservation organisations and the private sector to help increase recognition of the sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations. The launch will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York later this month.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011

The UN believes that the Year of the Forests provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them. Forests contain some of the most valuable and biodiverse ecosystems on the planet. They provide food, heat, energy, medicines, and wood products, promote biodiversity by giving habitats and shelter for all kinds of life, are an integral part of the Water and Carbon cycles; and have a fundamental role in climate regulation.

Without forests, many of these benefits would be lost, while many of the species which rely on forests would decline or disappear altogether. An estimated 1.6 billion people worldwide are believed to

depend on forests and the services they provide for their livelihoods. Importantly, forestry and related industry sectors such as paper and timber account for a significant share of the global economy.

As the world's largest forest certification system - PEFC will naturally be participating in the 2011 celebrations. However, this year would be an excellent time for companies to make their own commitment to the world's forests.

As part of its 2011 Year of the Forest awards activities, PEFC UK will sponsor the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) Community Forestry Award. see next page

There are practical ways businesses can demonstrate support for responsible forest management such as:

- Developing an inclusive responsible paper procurement policy which recognises both recycled and certified virgin fibre papers such as PEFC and FSC
- Asking suppliers for certified papers for customer-facing direct mail, envelopes, reports and accounts, promotional materials etc
- Using the PEFC logo on product to demonstrate that paper and timber products have been sourced from well-managed forests.

To get involved in the Year of the Forest celebrations visit: <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011>

ecobuild
be part of it

1-3 March 2011

PEFC will once again be exhibiting at Ecobuild – the world's largest event for sustainable design, construction and the build environment.

This year the show moves to a new venue – London's ExCeL exhibition and conference centre. The number of exhibitors has grown since last year from 1,000 to 1,300 and the organisers are confident of surpassing last year's 41,000 visitors.

In addition to the huge exhibition, there will be more than 130 seminars and an expanded conference programme with three main themes; Beyond Construction, Achieving a Sustainable Future and Design, Architecture and Sustainability. Topics for the seminars include future energy, refurbishing Britain, sustainability and the future, with the emphasis on practical and applied information.

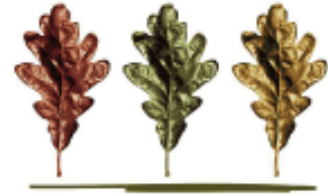
PEFC will of course be there to promote the benefits of certified timber.

If you are planning to visit the show, come and see us in the South Hall, stand S902

RFS EXCELLENCE IN FORESTRY AWARD

As part of its 2011 Year of the Forest awards activities, PEFC UK will sponsor the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) Community Forestry Award – one of four awards dedicated to recognising well-managed woodlands in the UK.

RFS
ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY



The Community Forestry Award is for projects involving community woodlands and forests which have been established and managed in a way that is sustainable and beneficial to the landscape, the local people, biodiversity and the economy. Entries for the awards are invited from woodland owners or managers from the private, public and voluntary sectors. All woods or groups of woods under the same management are eligible for entry.

The competition aims to recognise and promote wise management of trees and woods and is travelling England, Wales and Northern Ireland in a seven year rotation, with entries in 2011 being sought from Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex – together with all the Greater London Boroughs north of the River Thames.

RFS chief executive Dr John Jackson commented: "These awards were re-launched just two years ago and have already uncovered some wonderful examples of wise woodland management and fantastic teaching in Yorkshire, the North East and South East of the England. Forestry has a great role to play in this country – helping to benefit local communities and to provide owners with a sustainable, and environmentally friendly, crop. We are already aware of some very fine examples of woodland management in the region and look forward to seeing and recognising the very best."

There are prizes of £1000 for the winner and £500 for the runner up in each category. Entries must be received by 8 March 2011, and judging will be held in May and June 2011. The awards will be presented at a special event at Madingley Hall, Cambridge on June 27.

Full details and entry forms are available on www.rfs.org.uk (follow the get involved/competition links) or email rfscompetition@boyns.net or call 01442 822028

NEW PEFC PUBLICATIONS

Two new publications are now available: **Construction & PEFC-Certified Timber** and **Architects, Designers and Certified Timber**.

Both publications can be downloaded from the PEFC UK website below:

To obtain hard copies of these free brochures, please e-mail hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk.



<http://www.pefc.co.uk/news-page/publications-a-documentation/brochures-a-toolkits>



THE PEFC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010

The PEFC General Assembly, held in November in Rio de Janeiro, provided PEFC members with an opportunity to reflect on achievements and consider the future.

In 2010, the total PEFC certified forest area grew by seven percent, or 15.8 million hectares. This included new certified areas in Malaysia, Belarus, Russia, UK and Estonia bringing the total global certified area to 230 million hectares.

PEFC is poised to contribute to an expansion in supply over the coming years.

It is investing resources in increasing the certified forest area in Russia, and two more countries may potentially contribute to the total supply if the ongoing assessments of the national forest certification systems in Uruguay and Latvia demonstrate compliance with PEFC's Sustainability Benchmarks.

New member countries may also provide more PEFC-certified material in the near future. Argentina has become the latest member of PEFC, with the General Assembly accepting its application. In addition, the China Forest Certification Council has expressed its intention to join the PEFC family; advising that it will submit a formal application in 2011.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD UPDATE

After approval at the recent General Assembly, PEFC has published their revised standards on Chain of Custody, Logo Usage Rules and Sustainable Forest Management (PEFC ST 1003: 2010).

The revised Chain of Custody and Logo Usage rules will of course be of most interest to UK companies with a certified chain of custody (over 1300 in total). The current PEFC Chain of Custody standard (Annex 4) was last revised in 2005 and was due for review after five years. The review process has enabled a number of changes to be made to improve the standard and an opportunity to simplify the text with a view to making the new standard (PEFC ST 2002: 2010) easier to understand.

There is no need for chain of custody holders to make any changes yet as although the revised Standard and the amended logo use rules can be applied from 26th November 2010, with a one year transition period, you will not have to be assessed against the new standard until after 26th November 2011. All certification, re-certification and surveillance audits will be carried out against the new chain

of custody and logo usage requirements after this date. The certification bodies will no doubt require a while to develop new checklists etc. prior to offering assessments to PEFC ST 2002: 2010.

One of the biggest changes to be made to the Chain of Custody standard was the introduction of social issues. Social issues were already addressed in the PEFC Forest Management scheme so it was only natural that they would be included in the supply chain at some point. Appendix 4 to the revised standard, which contains the social criteria, should not be an issue for UK companies as these requirements are covered by UK law and compliance should therefore be a formality. These social requirements are designed to provide an additional layer of confidence to consumers and buyers, that workers' rights in companies along the supply chain have been respected.

The new standard also introduces a requirement for procedures for sub-contracting or out sourcing and handling of complaints. More examples are also given with regard to the procedures and records that should be in place. There is also greater provision for encompassing recycled material within PEFC-certified products.

The appendices in Annex 4 are cut from 8 to 4 in the new standard, with a separate guidance document planned to be published later in the year to assist with the implementation of the changes.

PEFC ST 2001: 2008 (second edition) has been updated to reflect the use of recycled product and the logo/label for recycled products. A second edition of the logo use toolkit has also been published to reflect the revised standard. Compliance with both will not be necessary until your company has been assessed against PEFC ST 2002: 2010.

Chain of custody holders should have been informed about the new standards by e-mail with links to where the documents may be downloaded from.

If you require more information contact Alun Watkins at awatkins@pefc.co.uk or to download the standards at <http://www.pefc.org/resources/technical-documentation/pefc-international-standards-2010>



GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL RECOGNITION FOR PEFC ITALY

The Italian Green Building Council has recently signed a protocol agreement with PEFC Italy to promote the benefits of forest certification and the use of certified wood products in the construction sector. In 2010, the Green Building Council of Australia began to give equal consideration in its Green Star rating tool to both PEFC and FSC forest certification standards.

Italy and Australia join respected green building rating systems around the world that recognise certified wood as an excellent material for green building. Others that offer credits for products certified to both PEFC and FSC, include BREEAM, the ANSI/ICC 700-2008:National Green Building Standard, the ANSI-GBI 01-2010 Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings, Built Green Canada, Green Globes, and CASBEE (Japan).

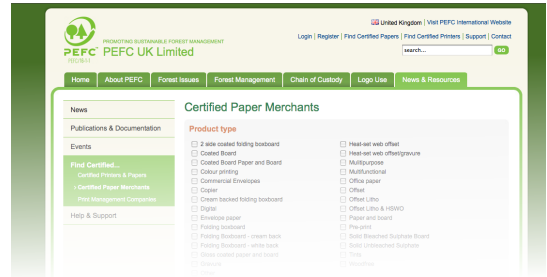


PEFC TO LAUNCH NEW DATABASE

With an ever-increasing number of companies keen to use the PEFC logo on consumer-facing publications as an assurance of responsible sourcing, PEFC will shortly be launching a database to make it easier for corporate print buyers to identify certified papers.

It will complement the existing database of certified printers which lists close on 500 print companies in the UK which can produce publications on PEFC-certified paper stocks making them eligible to carry the PEFC logo.

For further information visit www.pefc.co.uk.



GOVERNMENT TIMBER PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The results of the 2010 CPET Review were published last week. CPET (Central Point of Expertise on Timber) assesses timber certification schemes every two years. Compliance with the UK Government's timber procurement policy is mainly demonstrated by certification under either the FSC or PEFC schemes. CPET concluded that both FSC and PEFC continue to deliver evidence of sustainability in compliance with the UK Government's timber policy.

The Review found that both schemes have made improvements since the last assessment in 2008, passing the new social criteria and ensuring that the 'conversion' and 'national implementation' criteria were met.

For more information about the assessment process and its findings visit: www.cpet.org.uk

MEET PEFC

Ecobuild 2011

1-3 March 2011

ExCeL, London

For further details visit:

www.ecobuild.co.uk

Timber Expo

27-28 September 2011

Ricoh Arena, Coventry

For further details visit:

www.timber-expo.co.uk

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For all general enquiries and queries about chain of custody, use of the PEFC logo

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