



IrBEA – Just Transition Fund

MRTT- 0161 - Midlands Bioenergy Development Project

Who are we and what do we do?

- ESTABLISHED IN 1999
- REPRESENTATIVE VOICE OF THE IRISH BIOENERGY INDUSTRY ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND, WORKING ON BEHALF OF:
- BIOMASS, BIOGAS, BIOFUELS, BIOCHAR, WOODFUELS & ENERGY CROP SECTORS.
- POLICY, LOBBYING & ADVOCACY, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER.
 - BROAD AND DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING: FARMERS, FORESTERS, SMEs, TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS, CONSULTANTS, SEMI STATE ORG'S, FUEL SUPPLIERS, ACADEMIC BODIES, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ETC.
- CURRENT PROJECTS: WFQA, EIP SBDP, THREE C
 - FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.IRBEA.ORG



“Working Towards a Sustainable Energy Future with Bioenergy”



An overview of the project



Timeframe: Sept 2021- December 2023

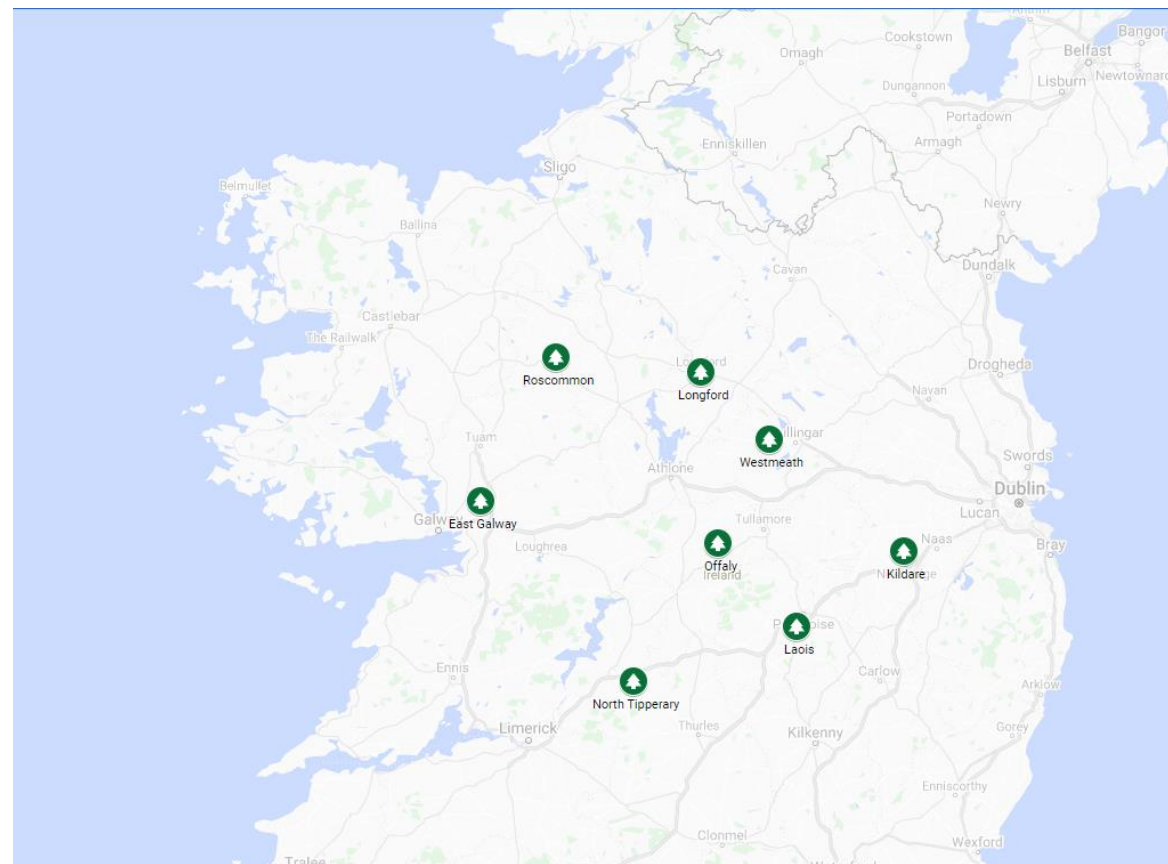
Focus on providing information, training and technical advice, guidance and mentoring to bioenergy business development and start-up enterprises.

Priority 1: Employment and Enterprise Supports.

Focus on farmers, foresters, entrepreneurs and start up SME businesses in the Midlands region.

Covers: East Galway, North Tipperary, Kildare, Offaly, Laois, Roscommon, Longford and Westmeath.

Midlands Bioenergy Development Programme Area



What the project is seeking to achieve



1) **Innovation:** This project is innovative as it will assist with the development of new green energy business which will provide employment opportunities for a transitioning workforce and drive local supply chains, satisfying local demand.



2) **Economic Sustainability:** The project will assist companies and individuals seeking to establish sustainable enterprises.



3) **Social:** The business start-ups will sustain employment and maintain the fabric of rural communities in the midlands which are impacted by the transitioning from peat and power generation.



4) **Environmental:** The business start-ups will be producing sustainable bioenergy centred on environmental protection and in compliance with the sustainability criteria set out in the Renewable Energy Directive II

Project Work Packages



Work Package 1: Bioenergy feedstock supply and energy demand analysis for the midlands to be completed. This will be completed by a consultant with assistance from the IrBEA CEO, Technical Executive and dedicated project employee. This work package will commence in late 2021 and be completed in the first quarter of 2022. It will involve widespread engagement with stakeholders in the region.



Work Package 2: Knowledge, Training and Skills needs analysis of producers, stakeholders and energy users. This work package will be completed concurrently with work package 1. This will be completed in the first quarter of 2022.



Work Package 3: Information and Knowledge Transfer Programme to address the knowledge and information gaps resulting from the needs analysis regarding development of enterprises and jobs in the bioenergy sector. The design of this work package will be finalised based on the outcomes of work package 1 and 2. This work package would include a series of 16 public stakeholder information workshops throughout the region on bioenergy topics such as biomass production, biogas production, wood fuel and energy crop processing and production and biochar production and usage. Conferences and information seminars on bioenergy topics linking producers, energy users and investors will be completed.

Project Work Packages

Work Package 4:

In this work package, 12 new businesses will be provided with mentoring and technical advice to develop start-up enterprises in the bioenergy sector in the Midlands Region.

The start-ups will be in the areas of biomass production, biogas feedstock production, biogas production, wood fuel and energy crop production and processing and biochar production and usage.

The project will assist the start-ups with mentoring and technical advice in all aspects of the process of business establishment.

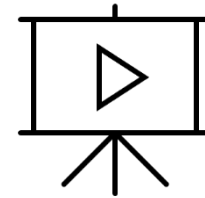
Competitive process to select 12 start ups.



Communications activities



- Launch event
- Dedicated digital platforms/channels
- Outreach campaign (Press releases, newsletters, flyers, project video, advertising etc.)
- Public information events
- 16 workshops across the 8 participating regions
- Results dissemination activities(reports, events etc.)
- Closing conference



Q4 2021

Milestones

- Establishment of steering group/committee.
- Project Launch held.
- Project promotional material development commenced.
- Procurement of Consultants for Work Package 1 completed.
- Work Package 1(Bioenergy feedstock supply and energy demand analysis) commenced.
- Procurement of Consultants for Work Package 2 completed.
- Work Package 2(Knowledge, Training and Skills needs analysis of producers, stakeholders and energy users) commenced.
- Recruitment process for Project Officer completed.



Q2 2022

- Promotional Material (project video/flyers, press releases) created and disseminated.
- WP 1(Feedstock supply and demand analysis) report finalised.
- WP 2 (Knowledge, Training and Skills needs analysis of producers, stakeholders, and energy users) report finalised.
- Schedule of public stakeholder information, workshops and conferences and information seminars developed.

Milestones

Q4 2022

- Rollout of programme of public stakeholder information, workshops and conferences and information seminars ongoing.
- Selection of SMEs, individuals and sign ups to mentorship programme completed.
- One-to-one engagement between selected SMEs/start-ups and dedicated project officer commenced.

Q2 2023

- Rollout of programme of public stakeholder information, workshops and conferences and information seminars ongoing.
- One-to-one engagement between selected SMEs/start-ups and dedicated project officer ongoing.

Q4 2023

- Closing conference completed.
- Final project report developed and disseminated.



KPIs and Outcomes

- Detailed analysis of bioenergy feedstocks and energy demands in Midlands region- Report
- Detailed analysis of knowledge and skills gaps that need to be addressed- Report
- Successful information and awareness campaign to highlight the potential of bioenergy related enterprises to generate employment opportunities in the Midlands Region
- Expression of interest to assist 12 SMEs, individuals or start – ups looking to avail of mentorship
- Training, mentorship and advice given to successful SMEs, leading to the establishment of new bioenergy related enterprises in the Midlands Region



The Midlands Bioenergy Development project will deliver on the following priorities:



Employment and Enterprise Support

12 new bioenergy start ups will be mentored employing up to an estimated 60 people directly in total and each of the start up will indirectly support up to an average estimate of 10 suppliers/ contractors, thus up to potentially 120 employees indirectly. Each business will make investments of up to €250,000 in the establishment of their long-term sustainable bioenergy businesses.

Information and Training Supports

The project will deliver a knowledge transfer and information programme as part of work package 3 specifically developed based on the information and training needs established in work package 2.

Community Transition Supports

The project will involve widespread community engagement and interaction. The project will establish dialogue within communities on the bioenergy opportunities which exist for communities to move from fossil fuels to renewable fuels. The community will be represented on the steering group and also given every opportunity to participate. Local trading of renewable fuels will enhance community coherence, buy in and involvement.

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