



Scottish  
Forestry

Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

# Update on ILG and notable activities: September 2021

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ANDY LEITCH

SFTT ILG



# ILG Activities

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The ILG will meet on 27 October. This will be first meeting where Mairi McAllan (Minister for Environment and Land reform) will co-chair with Guy Watt.

Main focus will be on:

- Introductions to Industry Leaders and discussion on opportunities for sector to contribute to economic growth and climate change mitigation.
- The ILG will welcome two new private sector members; Olly Hughes, MD of Gresham House and Nicola Aitken, Marketing Director of Gilmour and Aitken.

# Scottish Government's 10-year economic strategy

- Guy Watt and Andy Leitch have participated in various meetings with other Chairs' of Industry Leadership Groups and Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise to identify how industries can contribute positively to a new Scottish Government 10-year economic transformation strategy.
- During these discussions it has become evident that our sector is as well placed as any other to contribute effectively, such as:
  - Shortening construction supply chains by increased use of homegrown wood based products.
  - Encouraging onshoring the manufacture of new wood-rich products like CLT and wood fibre insulation.
  - Ensuring productive forestry is increased to mitigate the risk of increased global competition for wood fibre and its impact on availability of future imports.

# New Working Group

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- The ILG is looking to set-up a new Working Group in the coming weeks to identify the key opportunities for greatest added value to the sector by Digitising the Supply Chain.
- Confor plan to set-up a working group that will contribute to the delivery of an objective of Roots for Further Growth; the focus of the Group will be maximising fibre recovery from harvesting.

# Skills Group activities

## ■ Jobs and careers summit

- Helen Mackay Chief Forester for Scotland is working on a programme for an event that will showcase the outputs of the Skills Group and others in relation to delivering and refreshing the Industry Skills Action Plan.

## ■ Scottish Government National Training Transition Fund

- Confor are working with Scottish Forestry and Skills Development Scotland, on behalf of the ILG, to bring together training events to attract people from other industries into the sector. The focus for the first tranche will be timber haulage drivers, closely followed by forest machine operators.



Skills Action Plan 2020



# New wood products development projects

## Wood Fibre Insulation

Ongoing project focusing on technical challenges and opportunities for commercialising the manufacture of homegrown fibre insulation in the UK. This could help increase the levels of carbon stored in buildings of the future:

- Will look at various types of product e.g. loose fibre to almost hardboard and explore most appropriate and effective applications.
- Project will be led by ENU and directed by a steering group consisting of potential supply chain partners and investors.
- This project is the latest in a line of projects aiming at increasing wood fibre in construction. E.g. Homegrown Demonstrator House and Commercialisation of homegrown mass timber products (CLT).

# Other construction related projects



- **Mass Timber Commercialisation project [csic mass timber commercialisation \(napier.ac.uk\)](https://www.napier.ac.uk/csic/mass-timber-commercialisation):**  
This project is a collaboration with a number of representatives of the supply chain and potential investors to identify and address any final gaps with a view to leading to the manufacture of CLT in the UK. This has led to further manufacture at the CSIC Innovation Factory. Examples of this output will be showcased at COP26.
- **Home grown house type demonstrator project [home grown demonstrator \(napier.ac.uk\)](https://www.napier.ac.uk/home-grown-demonstrator):**  
Another Scottish Forestry funded project that is aimed at exploring the opportunities for the integration of various homegrown wood fibre products into a standard house type and its impact on global warming potential.

# Other notable activities

- **English Forestry and Wood-based Industries ILG:** Andy Leitch will chair an inaugural English Forestry and Wood-based Industries ILG in early November.
- **Transforming Timber** is a collaboration between Edinburgh Napier, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, and industry partners that have been awarded funding from Innovate UK to:
  - Manufacture the first 2-storey modular home built with homegrown CLT.
  - Create the UK's first dedicated homegrown timber resource library, showcasing best practice, training resources and technical guidance for the future use of sustainable timber products across the entire sector
  - The project will also produce a virtual reality walk-through and digital twin of the demonstrator unit to capture essential information such as structural, thermal, acoustic and fire performance data.



For more  
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