



Scottish
Forestry

Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Update on ILG and notable activities: Autumn 2021

ANDY LEITCH

SFTT ILG



ILG Activities

The ILG met on 27 October. This was the first meeting where Mairi McAllan (Minister for Environment and Land reform) co-chaired with Guy Watt.

Main focus was on:

- Introductions to Industry Leaders and discussion on opportunities for sector to contribute to economic strategy for Scotland and climate change mitigation.
- The ILG welcomed two new private sector members; Olly Hughes, MD of Gresham House and Nicola Aitken, Marketing and Project Manager 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

- 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 Academy \(confor.org.uk\)](https://confor.org.uk) , 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.csic.mass-timber-commercialisation.napier.ac.uk):**
 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.home-grown-demonstrator.napier.ac.uk):**
 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.



COP26 Wood related activities



Global collaboration - Confor and Wood for Good are steering group members of a Global timber collaboration promoting wood as a key sustainable resource to COP26, others involved are TTF, CEI-Bois, STA, etc.

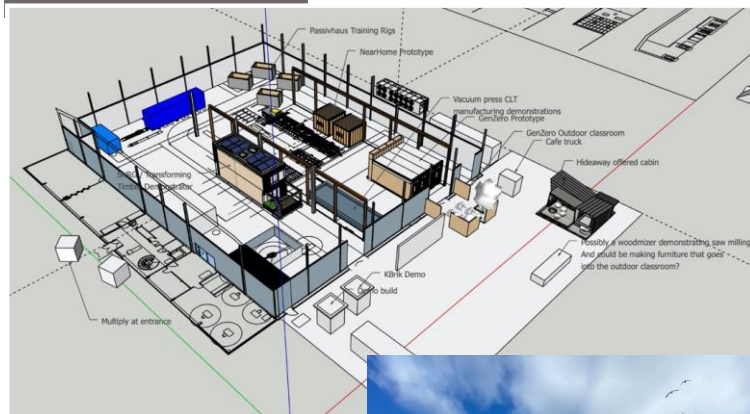
An output of the collaboration will be the publication of a global timber manifesto promoting the carbon (and other) benefits of wood products.

In addition, there will be a six-week programme [World of Wood Festival - Timber Trade Federation \(ttf.co.uk\)](#) based at the Building Store in London focussing on various aspects of the timber supply chain and its relationship to climate change.

COP26 wood related activities



Wood for Good



Timber Projects at COP26 - [Construction Scotland Innovation Centre \(CSIC\)](#) has taken on the challenge at quite short notice to host many of the timber related construction projects for COP26. Originally, it was to locate these on a site just next to the “green zone”, but that has fallen through, therefore many of the projects will now be relocated at the CSIC Innovation Factory during the COP26 period. Most of the projects being showcased are focussed on adding value to home grown wood products – more info can be found [here](#).

An additional part of the CSIC [Programme](#) is to hold a Forest to Built Environment conference on **2 November**, which is being sponsored by Wood for Good.

Wood for Good is working with the CSIC team and others who have forestry and timber related activities at the COP26 with a view to creating a digital guide to all wood related activities for visitors and delegates.

Other COP 26 related projects include [The COP26 House from Beyond Zero Homes - Beyond Zero Homes](#) which will be located near the Green Zone and there is also the proposal to erect a “beacon of hope” made from homegrown CLT which will be sited at central station.



For more
information:

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