

photo courtesy of TCB8 - P. O'Neil



**Bio Base NWE**  
Innovation and training  
for the biobased economy

# BIOECONOMY FACTSHEET

## IRELAND

JUNE 2015

This factsheet gives an overview of the Irish bioeconomy innovation technology system. It includes the key government interventions, research initiatives, networks and finance instruments, in Ireland.



Investing in Opportunities



This project has received  
European Regional  
Development Funding  
through INTERREG IV B.



INTERREG IVB

## Bioeconomy Governance

The main governing bodies are:

- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
- Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine
- Department of Jobs, Enterprise, and Innovation
- Department of the Environment, Community, and Local Government
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Commission for Energy Regulation (CER)



## Climate Change Policy

The **National Climate Change Strategy 2000** and 2007-2012 sets out a range of measures to ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol.

In January 2015, the **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2015** was introduced in the Houses of the *Direachtas* (Irish Parliament) and is working its way through the legislative process.

## Bioeconomy Strategies

Whilst there is no overarching bioeconomy strategy, there is a commitment to develop one. The Irish Government-funded **Bio-Éire project** team is identifying priority opportunities for Ireland's bioeconomy. The following documents show current policies:

- **Building Ireland's Smart Economy** - a framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal (2008), to move away from fossil energy, through investment in renewable energy, green enterprise, and agri-food.



- **Developing the Green Economy in Ireland (2009)** - an action plan prepared by a High-Level Action Group on Green Enterprise, set up by the Government.



- **Delivering our Green Potential** - Government Policy Statement on Growth and Employment in the Green Economy 2012, reaffirms the Irish Government's commitment to further developing the green economy.



- The Government's **Action Plan for Jobs** also reflects its green economy commitments.

- **Towards 2030** - Teagasc's Role in Transforming Ireland's Agri-Food Sector and the Wider Bio-economy (2008), covers food and energy.

- **The Programme for Government 2011-2016** commits to a coherent waste management approach that recovers more waste away from landfill, for energy, biobased materials, and chemicals.

- Also, **A Resource Opportunity - Waste Management Policy in Ireland (2012)** is a roadmap for how Ireland will move away from landfill and recover more resources - Ireland's three **regional waste management plans** also support development of a biobased economy.

### BioÉire

Identifying pathways to a bioeconomy for Ireland. Funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine through the Research Stimulus Fund, the BioÉire project will inform the development of a national bioeconomy strategy for Ireland. Bio Base NWE project partner, the TCBB (hosted at NUI Galway) is one of the project partners in BioÉire. DIT, Teagasc and UCD are the other BioÉire project partners.

## Research & Technology Funding



**Teagasc** is the agriculture and food development authority, supporting science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and the broader bioeconomy.



**Enterprise Ireland (EI)** funds SME R&D projects in exporting industries or the manufacturing sector through a range of programmes including: Innovation Partnerships, Technical Feasibility Study Grants, High Potential Feasibility Starting Grants, Industry-Led Research Network Programmes, Internationalisation Grants, New Geographic Market Research, and Competitive Feasibility Funds.



**InterTradeIreland** also funds North-South, cross-border collaboration between academia and industry on the island of Ireland for product and service development and innovation in the **FUSION Programme**.

## Finance



**IDA Ireland** - attracts foreign investment in Irish advanced manufacturing, global business services, and R&D operations.

## Technology Commercialisation Centres



Ireland's national **Competence Centres** are industry-led technology centres to enhance Ireland's innovation and competitiveness. For bioeconomy expertise and resources, there is the Technology Centre for Biorefining & Bioenergy (**TCBB**), hosted by 4 Irish universities (NUI Galway, UCD, UL & TCD).



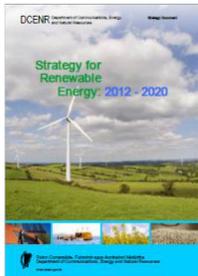
There are pilot plant facilities at **The National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT)**, a centre of excellence for training and research in Dublin.

In 2014 the government announced the decision to set up a biomass business **BioEnergy Ireland**, by joint venture between two semi-state companies, Bord na Móna and Coillte to procure biomass at commercial rates from both Coillte and private sources to supply the entire market on a commercial, competitive basis.

## Networks

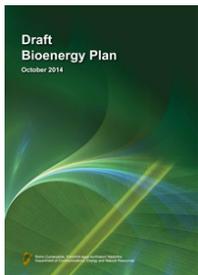
- **TCBB** - main activities including networking and R&D
- Irish BioEnergy Association (**IrBEA**)
- The Irish BioIndustry Association (**IBIA**) - representative body for the biotechnology industry in Ireland
- **Cré** - the Composting & Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland
- An industry-led **Renewable Gas Forum** including both commercial end-users and producers is being established

## Bioenergy and Biofuels



The **Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020** sets out five strategic goals, one of which is building a sustainable bioenergy sector, supporting renewable heat, transport and power generation.

Ireland set out its 2020 commitments and targets in its **National Renewable Action Plan**, to address the EU's renewable energy directive. Primary support is for wind energy.



However, a recent [draft] **National Bioenergy Strategy** incorporates a continuation of established support tariffs for biomass CHP, and will incorporate a new support measure for generation of biomass heat (Renewable Heat Incentive), to promote wider utilisation of biomass-based energy.

Additionally, a favourable **excise tax incentive** has been included in the Finance Act 2014 for use of gaseous transport fuels (including biogas fuels – biogas vehicle fuel has also been exempted from the carbon levy).

An overarching energy policy for Ireland with an outlook to 2030 – **Energy White Paper** is being prepared in the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources for imminent publication by the Irish Government.



photo courtesy of bhsle

## BIO BASE NWE

The Bio Base NWE network represents leading biobased economy experts, advising entrepreneurs from across Europe on how to develop new ideas into marketable products, from the first feasibility study or market analysis up to funding and investment scenarios.

[www.BioBaseNWE.org](http://www.BioBaseNWE.org)

This factsheet was produced by Bio Base NWE partners. More Bioeconomy Factsheets can be found here: [www.BioBaseNWE.org](http://www.BioBaseNWE.org) or [www.nnfcc.uk/publications](http://www.nnfcc.uk/publications)

