



**COILLTE**

GROW · TRANSFORM · SUSTAIN

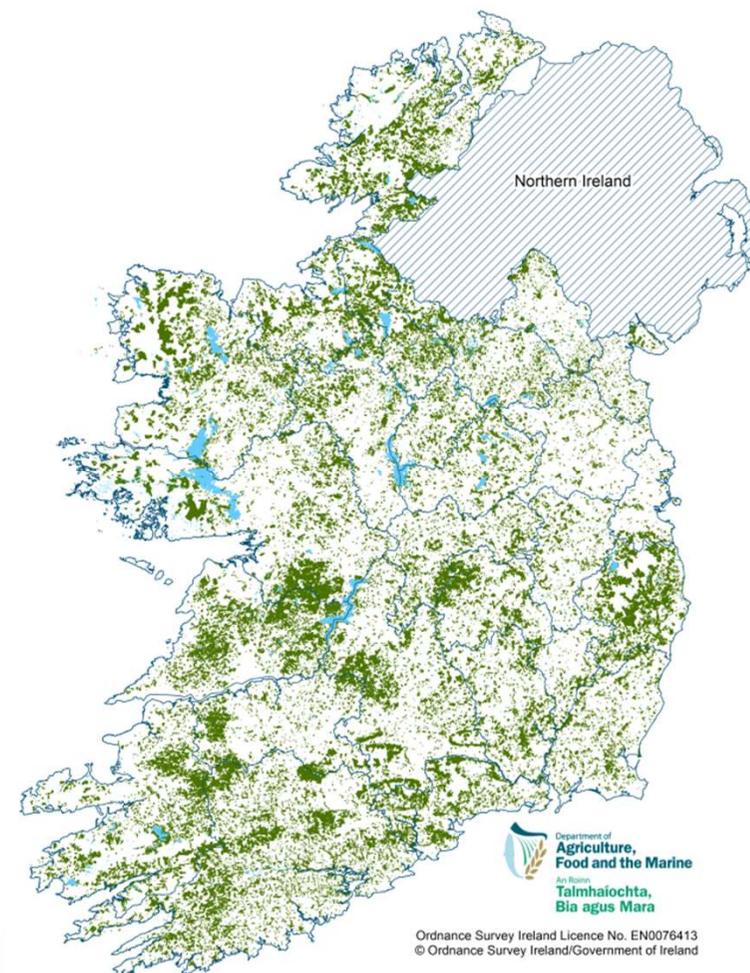


# Growing the Irish Forest

**Bioeconomy** Pat Neville

# Ireland's Forests ~ a brief history

- Ireland has one of the lowest forest cover in Europe 11%
- In 1900, Ireland had less than 1%
- State planting programme began
- Largely fast growing non-native conifers
  - 53% Sitka spruce
  - 24% Other conifers
  - 23% Broadleaf species
- Private planting financially incentivised
- Today 53% public 47% private
  - Mostly young productive forests
- Government afforestation programme
  - Expected increase due to climate change



# Production Forest Ireland



# Some Quick Facts and Figures

- 21,000 forest owners
- 3.3 million cubic meters harvested in 2018
- 7.9 million cubic meters forecasted for 2023
- 83% exported to the UK
- 12,000 rural jobs
- €2.3 billion to economy
- Output set to double in 15 years



# And a few more

- Value of forest products
  - €355 million
- Panel product production
  - €240 million
- Biomass production
  - 1.4million m<sup>3</sup>
- Energy from Biomass
  - 9m GJ valued over €70m
- Value of forest based leisure and tourism
  - €400m
- 380 million tonnes carbon sequestered



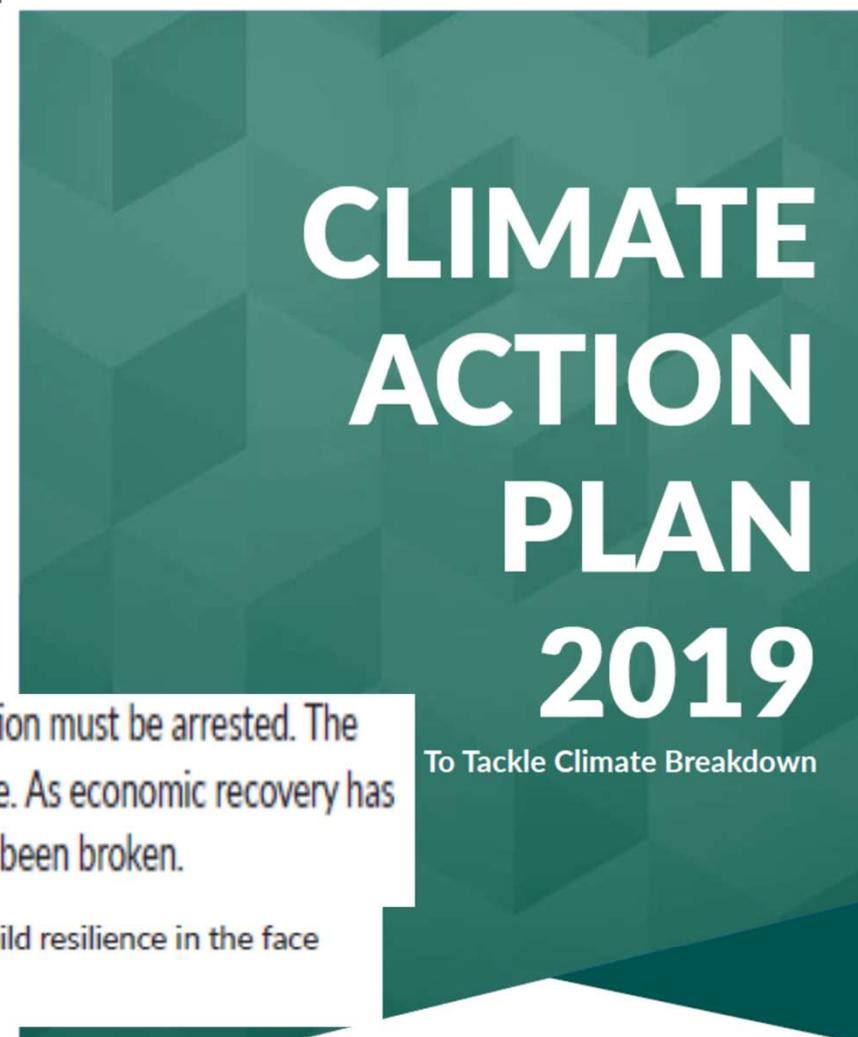
# Political Landscape

- Climate Change recognised as the leading challenge of our times
- Many Governments are now reacting
  - E.g. Ireland last week

The accelerating impact of greenhouse gas emissions on climate disruption must be arrested. The window of opportunity to act is fast closing, but Ireland is way off course. As economic recovery has taken hold, it is clear the link between prosperity and emissions has not been broken.

Decarbonisation is now a must if the world is to contain the damage and build resilience in the face of such a profound challenge.

- Role of forest sector



# Ireland's Forest Bioeconomy Today

- Irish Forest Sector comprises a range of industries that form a complete supply chain
- Sector set to double in output
- Availability of green jobs



# Irish Forest Bioeconomy Vision

## VISION

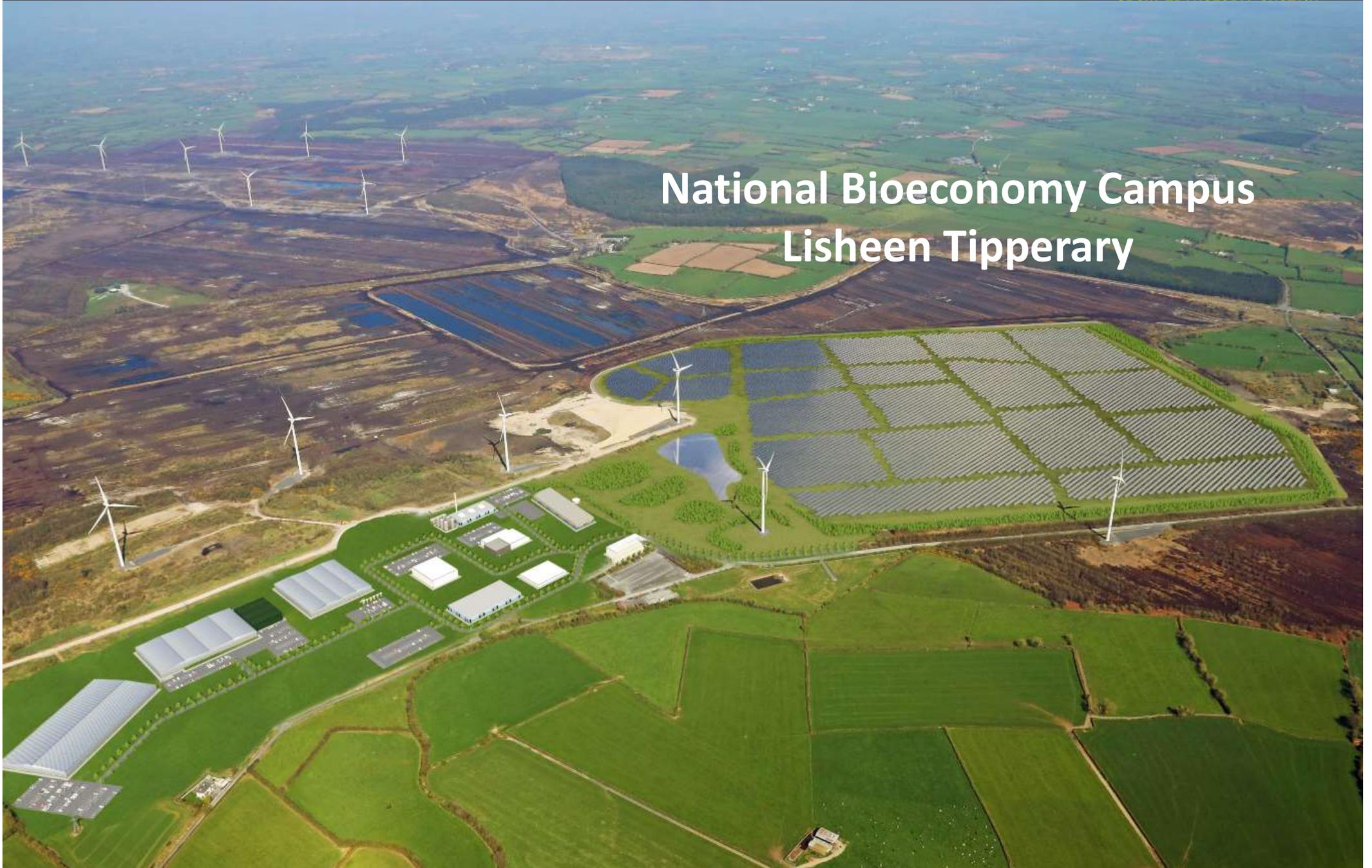
**FORESTRY –  
LEADING THE  
DRIVE TOWARDS  
LAND-USE CARBON  
NEUTRALITY IN IRELAND**

- MEETING LAND USE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS
- PROTECTING FOOD SECURITY
- CREATING SUSTAINABLE JOBS IN RURAL IRELAND
- PRODUCING LOW-CARBON, VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS
- DRIVING A STRONG AND DIVERSIFIED EXPORT SECTOR

# Bringing it together ?



## National Bioeconomy Campus Lisheen Tipperary



# Bringing it together ?



Dairy Biorefinery

Mushroom biorefinery

National Bioeconomy  
Innovation & Piloting  
Facility

- €85m worth of infrastructure on site
- Pilot facility (2019) is key to de-risking technology development and investments
- Critical mass on site for campus development

 **ENTERPRISE  
IRELAND**

# Green Jobs ~ What are we doing in Forestry?

- Attending events for students and promoting forestry as a modern, progressive, viable career
- Forestry Ambassador programme
- Second level schools
- Graduate Programme



# Graduate Programme



## FORESTRY GRADUATE PROGRAMME

The Coillte Graduate Programme offers talented individuals the opportunity to be part of the future of Coillte.

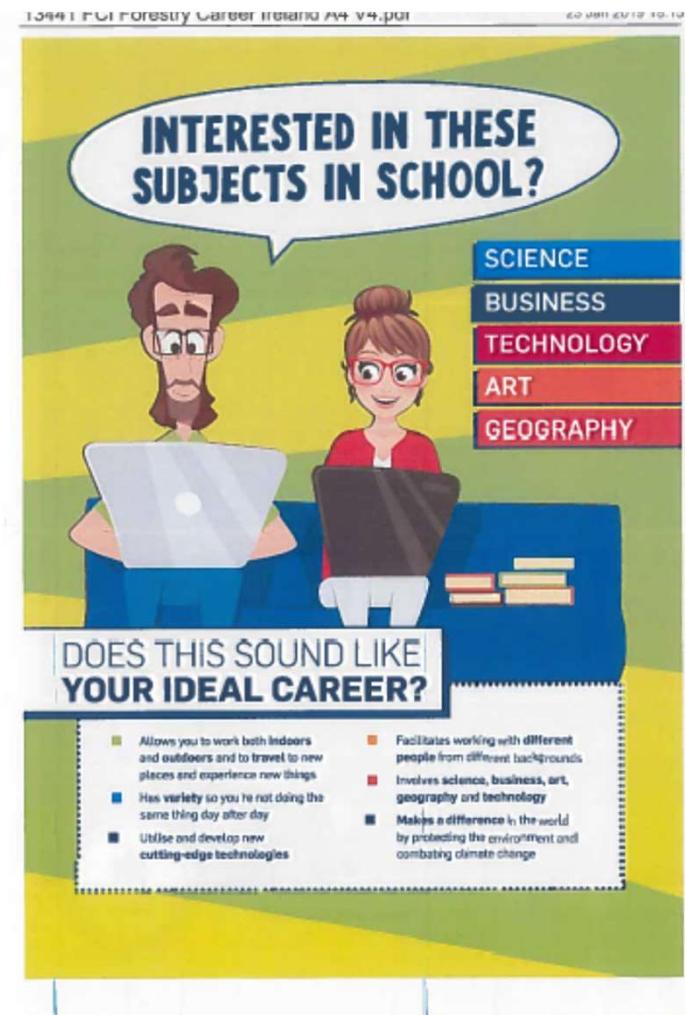
We offer recently qualified graduates a two year placement to gain invaluable experience across our forestry division. Graduates will be provided with placements in the areas of Resource Optimisation Analysis & Planning, Harvesting & Operations Management, Customer Supply Management or Financial Planning & Analysis. This programme provides students with the opportunity to apply their technical learning and further develops their skills and competencies within an exciting and customer focused forestry business.

We are looking specifically for graduates within forestry and students currently participating in their final year or who are awaiting results are also welcome to apply.



# Challenges & outlook

- Attracting people to forestry remains challenging
- Demonstrating sustainability criteria in a credible manner
- Climate change agenda
- Social media “truths”



# Growing the Irish Bioeconomy

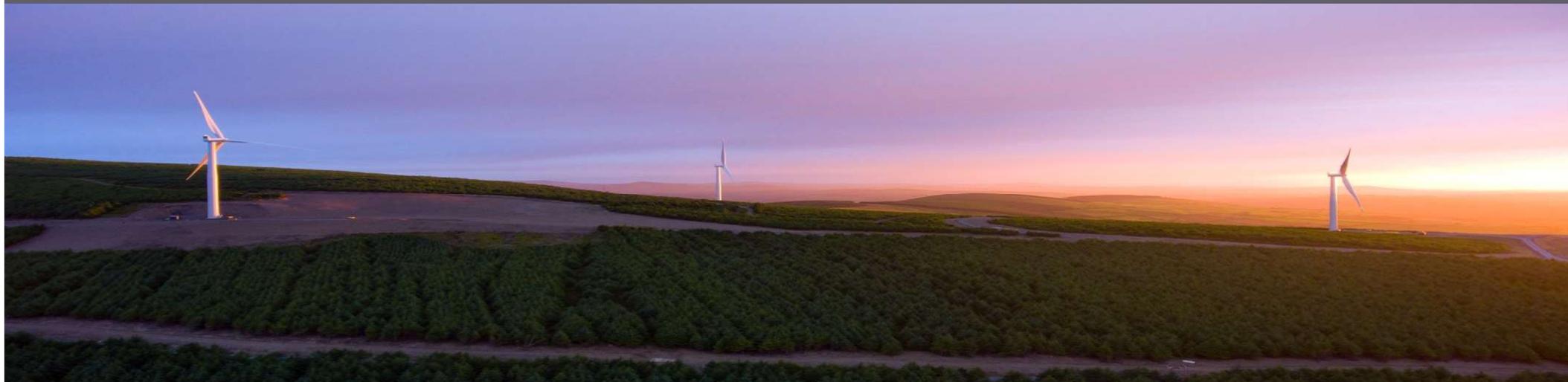


- Recent Irish publication
- Vision of a healthy Irish forest bioeconomy
- creating sustainable jobs in rural Ireland
- supporting national land-use carbon reduction and climate adaption objectives
- Available to download



# COILLTE

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## Growing the Irish Forest

### Bioeconomy

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