

Report from Biochar & Activated Carbon Conference held in Claremorris, Ireland, 25th October 2018.

Severn Wye Energy Agency attended the Biochar and Activated Carbon Conference in Claremorris, Ireland. Hosted by the Irish BioEnergy Association (IrBEA) and the Western Development Commission (WDC), RE-DIRECT's Irish partners, the event brought 70 attendees from around Ireland including international expertise and regional and national stakeholders in addition to the European partners from the project. Sean Finan, CEO of the Irish Bioenergy Association stated, 'we want to highlight the potential biochar holds for agriculture, how an indigenous source of activated carbon could help improve our water quality as well as how biomass can be utilised for carbon sequestration and energy purposes.'



Speakers - Left: Tim Scholze – Re-Direct project lead. Right: Eddie O'Callaghan, Heat Systems Ltd.

The conference outlined IrBEA and WDC's vision to establish regional hubs, similar to the pilot plant at Fferm Moelyci in North Wales, where biomass from the surrounding areas can be converted into biochar or activated carbon. These are charcoal-like materials that are very porous with large internal surface areas and a high capacity to adsorb contaminants. This makes them useful for a wide variety of applications, for example waste water treatment, soil amendment and remediation, gas cleaning, and an array of agricultural uses. The innovative pyrolysis technology can also produce a clean renewable fuel.

'There is a great opportunity to develop employment and enterprise potential in rural areas from the stages involved in collecting, transporting and processing of these low value biomass sources and the subsequent sale of value-added carbon products' according to Tomás O'Siocháin, CEO of the Western Development Commission.



Re-Direct project partners during site visit to Heat Systems Ltd.

A site visit was arranged to Heat Systems in Claremorris where they demonstrated gasification, pyrolysis and carbon regeneration machinery. Heat Systems work with clients to develop full scale plant designs for a variety of industrial sectors who utilise activated carbon in their processes and feedstock. Several RE-DIRECT Partners took part in the visit including Severn Wye Energy Agency, Cwm Harry Land Trust, Association d'Initiative locales pour l'Energie et Environment, Pronatura, Environment Technique Baden-Baden, IrBEA and WDC. With thanks to Eddie O'Callaghan and Ray McGreal for the tour of their facilities.

RE-DIRECT OVERVIEW

The 11 project partners in Belgium, UK, France, Germany and Ireland will receive €3.2m from the EU Interreg NWE programme over 3 years. The technology will be demonstrated at the Baden-Baden City's wastewater treatment works and green waste recycling centre, Germany, and at a farm scale pilot plant in North Wales.

If you're interested in working with the project or to be kept up to date with the project's latest news, including details of events, seminars and publications, please contact us using the email address or visit the project website, both below.

Project website:

<http://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/regional-development-and-integration-of-unused-biomass-wastes-as-resources-for-circular-products-and-economic-transformation-re-direct/>

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