



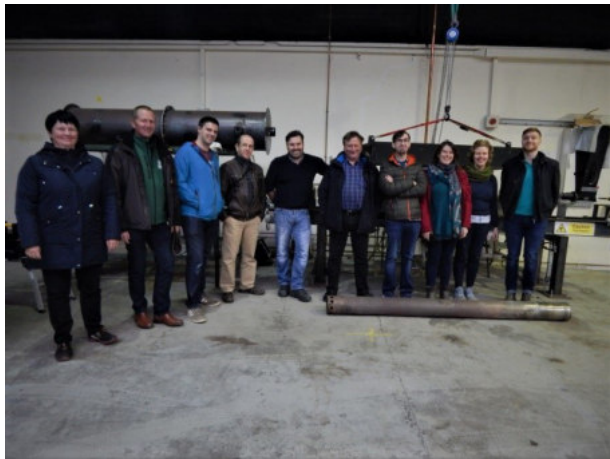
RE-DIRECT

Transnational Partner Meeting and Irish Inaugural Biochar & Activated Carbon Conference taking place on October 24th-26th in Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Ireland

The Western Development Commission (WDC) along with their national RE-DIRECT partners, the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA), played host to the international project partners in what was to be the only Irish visit during the lifetime of the project. The decision was taken for the meeting to take place in the western region

of Ireland in Co. Mayo, where the WDC is tasked with regional economic and social development. The decision was also made to avail of the expertise present from the visiting project partners to host a one day biochar and activated carbon conference. Partners travelled from Germany, Wales, Belgium and France to take part.

The 3 day visit began with a site visit to a local Mayo based company by the name of Heatsystems Ltd, a company that had in recent years relocated from Australia where it had successfully established itself due to its involvement in the mining sector. The company designs and installs pyrolysis and gasification technology and are currently looking to develop the first activated



RE-DIRECT Partners visit to HEATSYSTEMS Ltd.

carbon regeneration facility in Ireland. The site visit gave RE-DIRECT partners opportunity to talk with the staff behind Heatsystems and discussions included quality and testing methods for any activated carbon being produced, potential feedstocks that have been trialed and the potential of energy recovery from waste.

The 25th of October was the day for the first ever national conference around the areas of biochar and activated carbon. There were approximately 70 people signed up to attend.

The keynote address was delivered by Timothy Hayes, European Commission Representation from Dublin who addressed the crowd on the European policy landscape, a presentation that was influenced by content coming from the DG for Bio-economy in Brussels. Following on from that, Sean Finan, newly appointed CEO of IrBEA and recent RE-DIRECT project partner, delivered a national policy perspective, detailing Ireland's transition to a low carbon future. Dr. Tim Scholze then presented the RE-DIRECT project itself, how it came about and the potential the approach could hold and plans for the future. All the morning panellists then fielded questions from the audience and this brought to a close the morning session.

The second session of the conference contained presentations from a number of Irish speakers, all involved in some form with the thermal conversion of biomass. Beginning the session, Noel Gavigan of IrBEA outlined the preliminary findings of a market study into the Irish Biochar



Eddie O'Callaghan explaining the HEATSYSTEMS technology

and Activated Carbon market. Early indications showed that there were a number of applications and sectors where indigenous production could add significantly to the local economy. He also announced that funding had been granted for an EIP project looking to develop a mobile pyrolysis unit designed with a view to being able to travel around to various farms and creating biochar in the process from on-site residue.

Dr. Robert Johnson of Arigna Biofuels then detailed the ongoing R&D and investment they have made over the past few years as they endeavour to develop a bio-coal that is made from the waste stones from the olive oil industry through a torrefaction reactor. His talk was followed closely by Emer O'Siochru, founding member of Irish Biochar Cooperative Society Ltd. In her talk, she highlighted some of the work she had been involved in around biochar research including the potential use as a feed additive and as a way of reducing the environmental



RE-DIRECT coordinator Tim Scholze presenting the project at the conference



Noel Gavigan, IrBEA, presenting market study findings

emissions from the agricultural sector. Eddie and Ray from Heatsystems brought the session to a close with a very engaging talk detailing their technology and also its potential applications for a number of sectors. This was followed by another highly involved Q & A session.

The third and final session began with Dr. Roberta McDonald of the Aurivo Dairy Co-op again touching upon some of the issues the Irish agricultural sector has – one area where the RE-DIRECT approach could make a positive impact. This was followed by presentations by 2 RE-DIRECT project partners, both involved in the investments that are part of the project – namely Olaf Hermann from Baden Baden, who spoke on how the municipality's approach of green waste management, combined with waste water treatment is being integrated with on-site activated carbon production. The second speaker, Colin Keyse, detailed the plans for Ffarm Moelyci and the smaller scaled down version of the IFBB+ Pyrolysis technology, a model that due to similarities



Colin Keyse & Olaf Hermann fielding questions

ties with Western Ireland, resonated with many of the audience. Once again, a healthy Q&A session took place followed by a number of workshops where people could sit and interact with people involved in their various fields of interest. These workshops covered topics like Biochar, Activated Carbon, Waste & Waste Water Management and Bio-coal. This then brought the conference to a close.

The third and final day of the Irish partner meeting was spent discussing the project & plans for the future. Discussions were held in relation to upcoming visit to the site in Baden-Baden in Germany set for February 2019 in which it is expected each partner region will bring with them a number of visitors involved in aspects of the thermal conversion of biomass to see the newly installed Pyreg plant, and also to exhibit at a bio-char and activated carbon trade fair. Further discussions around the ongoing work of feedstock sampling and subsequent analysis took place.



Eddie O'Callaghan, Heatsystems detailing technology

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