



IRISH TIMBER GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Irish Timber Growers Association highlights role of forests in achieving Ireland's Climate Change targets

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Minister with responsibility for Forestry at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Senator Pippa Hackett, today launched the 2022 ITGA Forestry and Timber Yearbook. In welcoming the Yearbook publication, it's 33rd edition, the Minister said:

'Given the Climate and Biodiversity crises we are facing, there has never been a more important time for us to work together to get the most from our trees. We need forests and woodlands in Ireland, for our communities, our climate, our biodiversity and our timber industry. We also need to get people planting, which is why the amount of information contained in the 2022 ITGA Forestry and Timber Yearbook is so helpful. It is essential reading for anyone who is either involved in forestry or considering planting and I want to commend the work of those who put it together.'

The Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) Chairman, Brendan Lacey, thanked the Minister and said that, *'As a sector, forestry is ideally placed to form a core part of agriculture in Ireland, enhancing its sustainability through offsetting agricultural emissions, sequestering carbon and increasing biodiversity.'* He outlined that the Yearbook highlights the many attributes of forestry including its economic, environmental and social importance through the articles and statistical information in the publication.

Donal Whelan said that the **2022 Forestry and Timber Yearbook** is one of the most important sources of information for the sector and it also highlights the sector's profile nationally. The Yearbook contains 208 pages of valuable information for timber growers, forestry professionals, the timber industry and the general public. The mainstay of the publication is the industry statistics and the directory of services.

The ITGA Chairman concluded by saying that, *'We cannot stress enough the importance of forests in terms of climate benefits, health benefits, locally grown timber for much needed housing, recreation and also food. The dramatic decline in tree planting in recent years must be reversed to achieve these beneficial goals and to meet our climate change mitigation targets'*

Brendan Lacey also thanked Coillte, the Murray Timber Group and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the main Yearbook sponsors, and the various companies, organisations and individuals who continue to support its publication.

Yearbooks can be ordered online at www.forestryyearbook.ie or by contacting ITGA at 17 Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin; email info@itga.ie

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Attached 2 pictures taken at the launch of the 2022 ITGA Forestry & Timber Yearbook

Caption Picture 1: *Pictured at the launch of the 2022 ITGA Forestry & Timber Yearbook were Senator Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Forestry and Brendan Lacey, Chairman of the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) with ITGA Technical Director, Donal Whelan (back).*

Caption Picture 2: *Minister Hackett launches the 2022 ITGA Forestry & Timber Yearbook. Pictured (from left to right) Mechteld Schuller (ITGA), Pat Neville (Coillte, Sponsors of the Forestry Yearbook), Senator Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Forestry, Donal Whelan (ITGA), Brendan Lacey (Chairman ITGA), Donal Magner (Editor of the Forestry Yearbook), and Patrick Murray (Murray Timber Group, Sponsors of the Forestry Yearbook)*