

Ecoplan Forestry Limited

Company Profile



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Helping You Help the Environment

Ecoplan Forestry was founded in August 2007 with the aim of providing superior forest management strategies to those currently available. Dedicated to using 'close to nature' silviculture wherever possible, Ecoplan offers an integrated approach to forest management strategies designed to optimise commercial and environmental returns. We provide an alternative to conventional forestry principles that considers the whole forest ecosystem while providing the best possible financial returns.

Company Directors

Managing Director/Secretary: Sean McGinnis
Director: Malachy McGinnis

Contact Details

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Ecoplan Forestry Limited is a Forest Service approved company. We are registered for V.A.T and have full professional indemnity insurance. We hold a current tax clearance certificate.

Mission statement

Ecoplan forestry aim to be the leading provider of environmentally responsible forestry in Ireland.



Profile of the company Directors

Sean McGinnis (managing Director/Company Secretary)

The Managing Director, Sean McGinnis graduated in 1996 with a degree in forestry from U.C.D. Since then he has gained valuable experience first as an assistant forester in Scotland, then in Ireland as Regional Manager Midlands/East with Woodlands Managers Ltd, before becoming Operations manager with Forest Enterprises Ltd. During his career he has gained practical experience of every forest operation from green field afforestation to clearfell and everything in-between. To add to his practical knowledge he has received relevant qualifications from the Dublin Institute of Technology Bolton Street, the Athlone Institute of Technology, University College Cork and numerous lesser qualifications related to forestry. He is a Forest Service approved forester, a Native Woodland Scheme approved forester, a technical member of the Society of Irish Foresters, a member of the Irish Timber Growers association and a member of the Global Association of Foresters. Given his practical knowledge, experience and qualifications he established Ecoplan Forestry Limited in the belief that he could provide a better product and service to his clients.

Malachy McGinnis



Services offered by Ecoplan Forestry

- Woodland Estate Management
- Farm Forestry
- Investment Forestry
- Community Design
- Green space, Corridors and Connectivity
- Site Specific Environmental Assessment
- Natural Landscaping
- Habitat Sensitivity
- Aquatic Zone Conservation



Ecoplan - Woodland Estate Management

Old woodland estates represent some of Ireland's most valuable ecosystems. Abundant with both woody and non-woody plants they are home to a rich diversity of wildlife and so have enormous environmental worth. Forest Service has recognised this value and has introduced a number of Schemes designed to allow these areas to achieve their potential. Ecoplan Forestry believes that **commerciality** and the environment need not be mutually exclusive. Using the Forest Service grants to their full advantage, with a close to nature management policy, these old, often neglected woodlands, can be rejuvenated into the beautiful, productive, ecologically diverse areas that they have the potential to become. Ecoplan specialise in maximising the benefits to the owner and the environment by using and combining the following schemes to their greatest effect.

Afforestation Scheme

This scheme is designed to cover the cost of planting and establishing a forest, and provides a tax-free premium for the landowner. The Grant and Premium rates, which apply, are determined by the type and area of land involved, the species planted and whether the owner is a farmer or non-farmer. Farmer **premia** are paid for 20 years and non-farmer for 15 at present. Grant and premium payments are dependent on strict adherence to all environmental guidelines and the Code of Best Forest Practice. All grants are cost based.

Maximum Grant Levels

Grant/Premium Category (GPC)	1 st Instalment Grant €/ha	2 nd Instalment Grant - €/ha	Total FEPS Grant- €/ha
GPC 1 – Unenclosed	2,540.65	873.35	3,414.00
GPC 2 – Sitka Spruce/Lodgepole Pine	2,540.65	873.35	3414.00
GPC 3 – 20% Diverse Mix	2,699.60	873.40	3,573.00
GPC 4 – Diverse	2,984.52	942.48	3,927.00
GPC 5 – Broadleaf (except oak & beech)	3,999.67	1,199.90	5,199.57
GPC 6 – Oak	5,259.25	1,660.82	6,920.07
GPC 7 – Beech	5,738.87	1,865.13	7,604.00

Maximum Premium Levels

Grant/Premium Category (GPC)	Afforestation Premium (€/ha)			
	Farmer rate	Farmer rate	Farmer rate	Non-farmer rate

	<6ha	>=6ha	>=12ha	Per ha
GPC 1 – Unenclosed/All Species	240.94	240.94	240.94	197.12
GPC 2 – Enclosed/Sitka spruce/Lodgepole Pine	386.95	401.56	416.16	197.12
GPC 3 - Enclosed/20% Diverse Mix	449.74	464.35	478.94	197.12
GPC 4 - Enclosed/Diverse	478.94	493.55	508.15	197.12
GPC 5 - Enclosed/Broadleaf (other than Oak & Beech)	508.15	522.76	537.35	211.73
GPC 6 - Enclosed/Oak	544.65	559.26	573.86	211.73
GPC 7 - Enclosed/Beech	544.65	559.26	573.86	211.73



Native Woodland Conservation Scheme

This scheme was designed to help rejuvenate and protect our native woodlands. To qualify for the scheme the sites canopy must be dominated by native species. The grant covers the cost of a wide range of operations, including invasive weed clearance, enrichment planting, fencing and an initial ecological survey. A flat premium of €120/Ha is available with this scheme. Clearance of exotic conifers and re-spacing for this scheme often provides an income from timber and firewood sales. All grants are cost based.

Native Woodland Establishment Scheme

This scheme is like the afforestation scheme, with similar grant and premium levels, except only allows for the planting of native species. The focus here is the environment rather than timber production, but these plantations can be commercially productive if sensitively managed. An ecological survey of the site is necessary for acceptance. All grants payable are cost based.

Woodland Improvement Scheme

The objective here is to rejuvenate woodland dominated by non-native species, and to improve it to a higher state of productivity. Generally over-mature, malformed and diseased trees are removed and these cleared areas are then planted to Forest Service standards. Apart from improving the overall appearance of these areas, some income may be earned from the timber removed, and the potential for future production is increased. Again, all grants are cost based but this scheme has no premiums associated with it.

Reforestation scheme

This is a small grant designed to supplement the costs involved with re-planting areas that have been cleared of non-commercial timber. No grant aid is allowable under this scheme where a commercial crop has been felled. This scheme ensures that high standards and all environmental guidelines are strictly adhered to during initial operations right through to establishment at year 4. There are no premiums associated with this scheme.

High Pruning of Conifers Scheme

This grant covers the costs involved in pruning acceptable commercial conifer crops, (between 13 to 22 years of age). To qualify, stands must have the potential to greatly improve and must satisfy certain reasonable criteria. This operation involves two pruning ‘lifts’ carried out over four to six years.

Reconstitution of Woodlands Scheme

This grant is only relevant where damage to a plantation is the result of natural causes, such as frost, fire, disease and windblow. The objective here is to cover the costs involved in repairing any damage

and returning the site to full productivity. Only sites that have been well managed and maintained are eligible and the final decision rests, as always, with the Forest Service.

Forest Road Scheme

This scheme provides 80% grant-aid for the development of harvesting roads. A Maximum of €45/m is available to enable vehicle access for the management and harvesting of timber. The level of grant aid is dependent upon the area of forestry that will be served by the road, and the grant is intended for forest purposes only.

Neighbour Wood Scheme

This scheme allows for the establishment, development and improvement of forests in urban areas where public access and enjoyment are prioritised. Primarily for local authorities and community groups, the scheme involves close co-operation with all interested parties.



Ecoplan Forestry Provides Services in the Fields of:

- **Site assessment** – If you are interested in planting, or just want to know your options, Ecoplan Forestry will assess your lands suitability and premium potential free of charge.
- **Application submission** – Forest Service provide a wide variety of grant-aided schemes for the establishment and development of your forest. Applications for the various grant-aided schemes are just those – applications. There is no definite commitment required, but all Forest Service grant schemes require Approved Forester signatures. Ecoplan Forestry can submit these applications on your behalf.
- **Establishment** – Once approval issues, Ecoplan Forestry can establish your forest and guarantee that it passes inspection. Standard contracts must be in place before operations begin.
- **Maintenance** – Once the forest is planted and passed by Forest Service, you have the option of getting Ecoplan Forestry to get that forest to its maintenance stage.
- **Management planning** – Plantations are only productive if they are properly managed. Ecoplan Forestry can create site specific management plans, which will ensure your forest realises its potential.
- **Thinning/Harvesting** – All felling operations must be supervised by qualified professionals if they are to be successful. There are far too many examples of potential crops being devastated by thinnings which are too light, or too heavy. Ecoplan Forestry will ensure all harvesting benefits the crop, while maximising returns. Ecoplan Forestry believes in ‘close to nature’ management principles wherever possible. Far from costing the Earth to save the planet, ‘close to nature’ silviculture is as cost effective as conventional management but with enormous environmental benefits.
- **Road construction** – Forest Service provide generous grants for roads, but strict standards apply. Ecoplan Forestry will maximise your roading grant to allow the best possible access to your site, optimising your harvesting returns.
- **Aerial fertilising** – Difficult sites that are performing poorly, or are in ‘check’, may require fertilisation by helicopter. Ecoplan Forestry can arrange and supervise this operation to ensure the best possible results are achieved.
- **Shaping and pruning** – Sites can always be improved and shaping or pruning can have dramatic long lasting effects on quality. Ecoplan Forestry can ensure that these effects are positive.
- **Co-operative management** – Ecoplan Forestry provides a framework for small forest owners to ‘band together’ and realise real financial benefits. Grouped with other forest owners, you can enjoy the advantage of ‘economies of scale which are hugely important in operations such as roading, harvesting and maintenance.
- **Forest Valuations** – Ecoplan can use their extensive experience to assess the value of your plantation, if you are interested in selling, or the cost of one you are interested in buying.
- **Sale of plantations** – If you have a plantation and wish to sell, Ecoplan Forestry have the experience and the contacts to get you the best possible price.



Helping you Help the environment.