

## PEFC hosts Westminster dinner

Earlier this month, PEFC UK hosted a dinner in the Palace of Westminster at the House of Lords.

The 120 guests at the dinner, hosted by former UK Forestry Minister and current Chairman of United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), Lord Lindsay, were drawn from a wide range of stakeholders including publishers, construction companies, retailers, trade associations, house builders and certifiers.

The keynote speaker was the Rt. Hon. John Gummer MP, former Secretary of State for the Environment, an experienced international negotiator respected in both the business and environmental communities. Indeed, the NGO community once described him as "the best Environment Secretary we have ever had".

Mr Gummer gave a well-received speech asserting that timber traders who supply uncertified products should be "ashamed of themselves" and called on global forest certification schemes to work together to increase the amount of certified forest rather than arguing about the differences between the respective schemes, likening such arguments to "differences between the Baptists and strict Baptists.... To anyone else it's not important".

The need for the two global sustainable forest management certification schemes to work together to achieve the important goal of increasing the amount of the world's certified forests, clearly resonated with those present and we at PEFC UK will strive to work together with stakeholders from all sectors to contribute to this vital goal.

*Rt. Hon. John Gummer MP was a key speaker at the House of Lords event with a rousing speech calling for unity between forest certification schemes.*



**New PEFC DVD** *see inside to get a copy*



## BUILDING AWARENESS

In January, PEFC UK exhibited at LEAF (Leading European Architects Forum) London - an international conference and exhibition for architects, planners, contractors, developers and interior designers.

The aim of the LEAF 2008 event was to facilitate meetings between architects with established and emerging suppliers. PEFC UK exhibited at this event with the objective of encouraging architects to

specify certified timber and outline the key factors driving demand for certified timber in the UK such as the Code for Sustainable Homes, CPET and Olympic Delivery Authority requirements.

As well as stressing the importance of specifying legal and sustainable timber, PEFC was able to ensure that architects knew that they had a choice of certification schemes with which to engage.





**The built environment accounts for about 50% of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions and it is becoming increasingly clear that we will have to change the way we design, construct and use buildings.**

This means rethinking the whole process and taking a fresh look at what is meant by a sustainable built environment and how it can be achieved.

zones to enable visitors to network with specialists from a wide variety of fields at the forefront of sustainability in the built environment.

The Think 08 conference and exhibition will take place at ExCeL, London on 7-8 May. Think is an exhibition and conference about sustainability in the built environment. It tackles the issue at a strategic level across the value chain in the public, private and third sectors. The show is arranged around six themed



PEFC will be exhibiting for the first time at this exhibition. We hope that it will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the PEFC programme among the major professional bodies and trade associations such as the Construction Industry Council, UK Green Building Council, RICS and NHBC that attend.

*For further details visit [www.think08.co.uk](http://www.think08.co.uk)*

## PEFC UK SCHEME

The revision of the PEFC UK Scheme for sustainable forest management has now completed the full assessment process by independent consultants and a peer review panel. Subject to final international endorsement, it should come into force in the first week of March.

## Lockerbie Training Seminar

Later this month PEFC will be hosting a training seminar for UKAS-accredited certification bodies who audit against the PEFC chain of custody standard. The event will be held in Lockerbie and to date over fifty participants have registered to attend. The seminar will provide an opportunity for PEFC to bring auditors up to date with latest developments to the PEFC technical documentation.

### Revision of the UK National Forest Standard

The National Forest Standard which forms the basis of the PEFC UK scheme is now undergoing its third revision and the public consultation

process is underway. The UK Forestry Standard provides the most comprehensive current statement of the Government's approach to sustainable forestry across the UK and has been adopted by the four countries in their forestry strategies.

The Standard is linked to the developing international protocols for sustainable forestry and explains how these commitments will be delivered in practice in UK conditions. It sets out the requirements which must be satisfied before any forestry project can be considered for a felling licence or the receipt of grant

aid under the Woodland Grant Scheme. The Standard also covers key aspects of practical forest management and is supported by a suite of environmental guidelines published by the Forestry Commission setting out best practice.

The importance of forestry in mitigating climate change and the increasing use of bio fuels will no doubt feature in the revised standard which is scheduled for publication in 2009.

For further information visit the Forestry Commission website at [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

## STRONG DEMAND FOR PEFC

Interest in **PEFC Chain of Custody certification** continues to grow rapidly with almost 700 UK companies now holding chain of custody certificates.

Recent demand has been strong, particularly from the print and paper sector. Environmental responsibility is of growing importance to end-users, publishers, printers and converters so Chain of Custody certification, provides confidence in the supply chain. The whole supply chain is increasingly demanding assurances of environmental provenance and the last twelve months has seen leading paper manufacturers, merchants, publishers and printers opting for dual certification, for both FSC and PEFC. Dual certification combines flexibility of sourcing with availability.

PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is the world's largest forest certification programme.

Two thirds of the world's certified forests (over 200 million hectares) are managed by PEFC-endorsed certification systems, delivering millions of tonnes of certified timber onto the global market. In just over three years, PEFC UK has seen a ten fold increase in demand for Chain of Custody certificates, demonstrating a growing appetite for certified products.

The PEFC logo is increasingly beginning to appear on-product in the UK market, especially on printed, consumer-facing materials. Indeed, one of the printing industries' leading publications PrintWeek now carries the PEFC logo to demonstrate to readers that it is published on certified paper.

This month saw the publication of a new DVD which explains the main points of the PEFC programme. It is a useful way of informing your customers about what the PEFC scheme means and, with a two minute running time, is short enough to put on the company intranet. If you'd like a copy please email [hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk](mailto:hilary.khawam@pefc.co.uk)



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

#### Print + Paper Monthly Conference

*Strategies for Success - how to use the environment to maximise commercial opportunities. Mon 10 March 2008*  
Wentworth Golf Club, Wentworth Drive  
Virginia Water, Surrey.

### APRIL

#### Carton Confident - Carton Conference 08

*Mon 7- Tue 8 April 2008. Whitebury Hall, near Towcester, Northamptonshire.*

### MAY

#### Think 08

*Wed 7 - Thu 8 May 2008*  
ExCel London. For further details visit [www.think08.co.uk](http://www.think08.co.uk).

### BEYOND

#### PEFC UK Responsible Procurement

*Tue 3 - Wed 4 June 2008*  
Glasgow. Further details in April News.

#### Timber in Construction

*Thu 25 September 2008*  
Evolution Suite, Old Trafford Football Ground, Manchester. Details please contact Terry Hanlon 0161 661 4119.

## BREEAM BRE EcoHomes update

Although the new national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes The Code for Sustainable Homes, launched in April 2007 has now replaced BRE EcoHomes for new builds in England and Wales, BRE EcoHomes continues to be used for refurbished housing in England and for new builds in Scotland and Wales.

PEFC UK News readers might be interested to learn that PEFC is now awarded the equivalent number of points in the Responsible Sourcing of Materials section as FSC, CSA and SFI i.e. Tier One 3, points towards materials credits.

The change in the points awarded for using PEFC-certified timber was announced in a July

2007 PROCESS NOTE from BRE which was sent to all BREEAM assessors. Under Technical Information: Technical/scope clarifications for responsible sourcing the following change was announced:

#### PEFC Tier level

Further to the CPET (Centre Point of Excellence in Timber) review earlier this year PEFC timber now qualifies as Tier 1 in the BREEAM and EcoHomes schemes. This change will take effect from the date of this process note. This change will be noted in an addendum and placed on the extranet shortly. As a result there is currently no scheme that falls within Tier 2 and all other schemes remain in the same tier as before.



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