

Farming Alternatives for Bioeconomy / Biobased Construction Materials

11th February 2026
09.30- 16.40, Athy, Co Kildare

Circular Reno and BBionets projects are hosting a joint training and information seminar on emerging opportunities for famers on bioeconomy opportunities for growing of crops for application in the bioconstruction sector.

The construction sector needs to decarbonise and biobased construction material from agri-crops such as straw, miscanthus, hemp etc., can provide a range of carbon storage materials and products such as boards, insulative batts and quilts. The bioconstruction sector is growing and expanding across Europe and there is opportunity for farmers to supply feedstock into emerging supply chains in Ireland, providing diversification and alternative income possibilities.

The seminar will combine morning seminars, with expert speakers on bioeconomy, bioconstruction, agri-crops, processing etc., and afternoon sites visits to straw processing facilities and demonstrator.

09.30-09.35 5′	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	PATRICK DALY (HOST) Consultant at KORE Retrofit (Ireland)
09.35-09.50 15′	BIOECONOMY CONTEXT EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN BIOECONOMY (AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY)	DÓNAL KINSELLA (BBioNETS Ireland)
09.50-10.05 15′	AGRI CROP SUPPLY CHAINS TO BIOBASED CONSTRUCTION	PATRICK DALY (HOST) Consultant at KORE Retrofit (Ireland)
10.05-10.20 15′	BIOBASED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	NIALL CROSON (Technical Director EBS)
10.20-10.35 15′	A BIOBASED CROPS SELECTION GUIDE	PAULA GALLEGO (Research Assistant KORE Retrofit)
10.35-10.50 15′	DIVERSIFYING TILLAGE FARM FUTURES	MAX POTTERTON (Grain Policy Executive IFA)
10.50- 11. 15	SHORT BREAK	

11.15-11.30 15’	PALUDICULTURE - GROWING WETLAND CROPS FOR PRODUCTIVE USE WHILE REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS - INTRODUCING PALUS DEMOS	NIALL O'BROLCHAIN (Research Associate at Insight Centre)
11.30-11.45 15’	PROCESSING STRAW FOR BIOBASED CONSTRUCTION	GAVIN OWENS (CEO Strawchips)
11.45-12.00 15’	GROWING INDUSTRIAL HEMP	EDWARD HANDBIDGE (Owner at the Hemp Farm Ireland)
12.00-12.45 45’	Q & A DISCUSSION WITH PANEL OF EXPERTS	Speaker Panel
12.45-13.45	LUNCH BREAK	
13.45-14.00	TRAVEL TIME: SEMINAR SPACE → STRAWCHIP INSTALLATIONS	
14.00-15.00	STRAW PROCESSOR FACTORY VISIT	GAVIN OWENS (CEO Strawchips)
15.00-15.30	BLOW IN STRAW APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION	STUART PRAUSE (Ireland -UK Director Isocell)
15.30-16.00	HEMPCRETE AND HEMP BLOCKS APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION	RONAN McDERMOTT (Hempbuild)
16.00-16.30	INTERVIEWS AND WRAP UP	KORE MARKETING TEAM



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Circular Reno is and EU InterReg NW project (Grant No NWE0100144), which is seeking to develop and demonstrate biobased modular construction solutions for application in retrofit across several EU regions including here in Ireland.

KORE Retrofit team as part of work package 1 within Circular Reno project, is seeking to develop an action plan for the sector demonstration of biomass materials construction and possible supply chain development focusing on straw, hemp and miscanthus.

BBioNets is a European Union–funded thematic network dedicated to the creation and promotion of forest and agriculture networks to boost the adoption of bio-based technologies (BBTs) and support value chain development across Europe.

The project is implemented under the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme (2023–2026) with grant agreement number 101133904, focusing on advancing sustainable practices in the agriculture and forestry sectors.