

United Nations International Year of the Forest 2011

Forestry in the Highlands Conference

Inverness 8 – 10 September 2011

Practically Green

Archie Prentice

The Forestry in the Highlands Conference was a huge success, with our 90 delegates participating in discussion on a full range of topical forestry subjects and with more viewing and sending messages via a live Internet webcam.

No topic more important than carbon, where of course sustainable woodlands and forests play a vital role in being part of the solution, in contrast to adding to the problem.

Thank you for giving our delegates a measured idea of how they themselves had contributed to reducing their carbon footprint by sharing transport to the conference, using public transport options or joining the conference via the Internet.

Highlighting the recently published Woodland Carbon Code was a thoroughly positive example of the way forward for the forest industry. Forestry practitioners have in the Code a means to identify the value of sequestering carbon through planting and replanting trees, as well as emphasising the use of timber as one of the few truly sustainable raw materials for construction.

Registered users of the Code can use their verified status as an attractive selling point for customers and woodland managers have a clearly set out standard to follow. Projects that meet all these requirements can carry the Woodland Carbon Code label of approval, which is a really effective way of showing that carbon mitigation is being taken into account by our business.

Providing a tangible example of just how wood captures CO₂ by drawing everyone's attention to a small block of softwood provided for each person in attendance really brought the point home. The card insert told just how much this small amount was needed to lock up the energy generated by some everyday actions like boiling a kettle or watching TV.

This was a really thought provoking and objective element of the Conference and the organisers are really pleased that Practically Green was able to deliver the information in such an interesting and relevant way.

Many thanks for all your help.

Malcolm Wield
Forestry Commission Scotland
UN IYF Forestry in the Highlands Steering Group