



Measure:

Business & Economic
Development

Promoters:

Donegal County Council/
Derry City Council/ NW
Rural Development

Title:

**Opportunities for
Non-Food Use of Land**

This research project came in response to the dramatic changes to hit the farming sector over the last number of years and set as its main objective, to explore opportunities for “non-food uses of land” in the North West Region as a viable, alternative option for farm enterprises in the region.

The project focuses on areas such as renewable biofuel, renewable energy including wind, hydro etc, or waste disposal / recycling enterprises. It also explored models of best practice elsewhere with a view to replication in the NW region. eg the setting up of energy co-operatives, the use of vegetable oil as fuel for diesel engines and biogas production from animal manure . The research also examined the supply chain required for the establishment of the alternative industries identified.

The promoters played host to two very successful cross border events, the first one focusing on renewable energy resources and the second one, presented the findings of the research. These events served to promote and encourage farm enterprises in the North West region to form cooperative networks and clusters to facilitate diversification into the viable alternative options identified.

The study was timely as it raised awareness of alternatives to traditional farming at a time when environmental concerns were coming to the fore of the public consciousness.

The research publication is available at Donegal County Council and Derry City Council and to download from the Internet, making it simple for people to access.



Launch of Opportunity
for Non-Food Use of
Land Booklet

Total Project Cost: €155,918

Grant Awarded: €116,939

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