

Short Rotation Coppice Scheme

The Short Rotation Coppice Scheme is funded under Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme and delivered by DARD.

It aims to assist in developing the wider renewable energy market by increasing the amount of SRC grown for energy use in Northern Ireland.

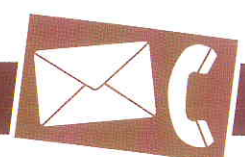
Short rotation coppice is a specialised form of forestry plantation which involves growing high yielding trees, such as willow, at close spacing and harvesting at regular intervals (every two to three years). The harvested crop is usually converted into wood chips which can be used as a fuel to generate heat and electricity. When oil and gas prices are volatile, wood-chip energy provides a consistent energy source and a long-term supply.

Who can apply?



The short rotation coppice scheme is open to farmers and land managers with at least three hectares of agricultural land available for planting.

How do I apply?



The opening and closing dates for schemes/programmes supported by the Rural Development Programme are advertised and promoted widely. The Rural Development Programme website www.rdpni.info provides a full list of what is currently open for applications together with further details of each scheme/programme and how to apply.

If you are interested in participating in this scheme but do not have access to the Internet please contact us using the details below.

What funding is available?



	Level of support	Maximum rate of grant/ha
Less Favoured Area (LFA)	Up to 50% of establishment costs (or up to 60% for young farmers)*	£1,000
Outside Less Favoured Area (LFA)	Up to 40% of establishment costs (or up to 50% for young farmers)*	£1,000

*A young farmer is defined as a person who has successfully entered the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Financial Assistance for Young Farmers Scheme for Northern Ireland (also known as the New Entrants Scheme).

Grant aid is paid in two instalments – 70% when planting is completed and 30% when cutback is completed after the first year.