



PRESS RELEASE

Ref MB37

Today's Date: 25/07/2007
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GREEN BUSINESS IN MERSEYSIDE BOOSTED BY NEW TIMBER NETWORK

Green business in Merseyside has taken another step forward with the launch of The Mersey Forest Timber Network, a new partnership to encourage the production of the Northwest's furniture and art from sustainable local timber.

The network's launch event saw local furniture makers, sculptors and artists visit Woolton-based environmental tree company Tree Health Service to look at the different timber on offer, make contacts and discuss requirements and availability.

John Campbell, Tree Health Service's Contracts Manager, said: "This is a really positive development for both the users and producers of timber in the region. Not only does using sustainable local wood have obvious environmental benefits in terms of reducing transport emissions and promoting responsible forest management, it's also increasingly commercially attractive thanks to the rise in green-conscious customers."

The network is coordinated by furniture maker Garry Olson, from the nationally acclaimed 'One Tree' project, on behalf of environmental regeneration initiative The Mersey Forest.

Mr Olson explains: "The network is starting from a very encouraging platform, with lots of interest from existing and potential wood users and momentum really starting to build in the sector. We're looking to take this forward on a number of fronts including a potential local timber product exhibition to tie in with Liverpool, European Capital of Culture 2008."

To find out more about The Mersey Forest Timber Network, call 01925 816 217 or visit www.merseyforest.org.uk.

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Editors Notes:

The Mersey Forest:

The Mersey Forest is the leading environmental regeneration initiative in the North West and the largest of England's 12 Community Forests. The Mersey Forest is not restricted to a single site, rather it is being created across a 465 square mile area of Merseyside and North Cheshire as networks of woodlands and other habitat between and within our cities, towns and villages for - and with the involvement of - local communities.

The regeneration of The Forest is driven by The Mersey Forest Partnership, which includes the Forestry Commission, Natural England and nine local authorities – Cheshire, Liverpool, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton, Vale Royal and Warrington. The Mersey Forest is the key driver for investment into and for the development of a green infrastructure for the North West, reclaiming over 8000 hectares of land, home to 1.6million people, over a 30-year period to bring revolutionary economic, social and environmental benefit to the region.