

Special EU Programmes Body

Project Case Study

A.N.S.W.E.R. (Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling)

Programme:
INTERREG IVA Programme

Theme:
Environment

Funding:
Circ. €2.3million

Lead Partner:
**Agri-Food & Biosciences
Institute**

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Geographical area:
Northern Ireland/Border
Region of Ireland.

The project examines the potential to use short rotation coppice (SRC) willow to help clean up organic waste and wastewater, whilst at the same time producing renewable bio energy.

The project is being led by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in conjunction with Queen's University Belfast and eight different cross-border partners.

Willow has many positive environmental benefits as it can act as a renewable energy crop, remediate dirty water, protect streams from nutrient run-off and when planted along farms even improve animal disease bio security.

The project aims to research the full range of environmental applications of willow to include a reduction in the pollution impacts on waterways by removing the need for mechanical treatment systems, and the generation of useful by-products including wood chip — a sustainable energy fuel.

Speaking about the project Dr Alistair McCracken, (AFBI), said:

“ANSWER is about developing low carbon and environmentally sustainable solutions for dealing with organic waste, while simultaneously creating renewable bio energy.”

Key Project Outputs:

- **Research on the impacts of applying effluent to willow.**
- **Research into the impacts on biodiversity of irrigating effluent to willow.**
- **Map out opportunities for effluent irrigation.**
- **Investigate the use of SRC willow for the disposal of landfill leachate.**



Short Rotation Crop willow.

