

Biomass Futures – Analysing Europe’s Future Bioenergy Needs

November 2010

The context

Following the submission of National Renewable Energy Action Plans (starting June 2010) it is now possible to see the cumulative level of bioenergy demand anticipated by EU Member States, based on their National Renewable Energy Action Plans. The plans set out the additional bioenergy requirements stimulated by the Renewable Energy Directive. The question now is - how will the very substantial increase in the use of biofuels, bioliquids, solid biomass and biogas be supplied across Europe simultaneously?

Work within the ‘Biomass Futures’ aims primarily to provide stakeholders at European and Member State levels with structured, up- to- date information, for the role biomass can play in meeting the RED 2020 targets for heat, electricity & transport sectors.

The project team is assisted in their work by a network of selected stakeholders, which provide input/ validate the project outputs through a series of teleconferences/ interviews.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Ms Bettina Kretschmer at bkretschmer@ieep.eu

What type of information can you find available from the ‘Biomass Futures’ team?

Biomass Futures has recently held two workshops dedicated to policy and sustainability stakeholders.

A. Workshop on Demand for Biomass- How likely is to be met? Brussels, 30th June 2010

The workshop aimed to discuss with industry & policy stakeholders the promising market segments for future biomass penetration in the heat, electricity/ CHP and transport markets & understand the key factors affecting demand from industry & policy. Key elements presented were:

- Current market state and biomass shares
- Policy driven & Industrial demand (energy & non- energy)
- Key factors that will affect future demand

This workshop was intended as a basis for future interactions with stakeholders, allowing discussion and input into the work of the Biomass Futures Team in defining the market segments biomass can play a role in the future and validating the key factors affecting their future penetration.

Presentations are available at www.biomassfutures.eu

B. Workshop on Analysing Europe's Future Bioenergy Needs: Member States Anticipated Use of Bioenergy and Sustainable Supply Options Brussels, 26th November 2010

The workshop aimed to help policy makers understand the questions we face when dealing with rapidly increasing bioenergy needs. It provided attendees with an improved understanding of the facts and evidence base:

- presenting the nature of the demand set out in the available NREAPs;
- summarising the implications in terms of future EU land use of expanding biomass demand;
- presenting for discussion outcomes from key modelling exercises reviewing the supply of biomass for energy in Europe;
- considering the sustainability of this supply; and finally
- combining these results with anticipated models describing the nature of EU energy demand into the future.

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C. Workshop on Biomass Sustainability issues in Germany Berlin, 30th November 2010

Within their report (February 2010) on sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources, the European Commission recommends the following criteria for inclusion into national schemes; however, Member States are under no obligation to adopt them.

- A general prohibition on the use of biomass from land converted from primary forest, other high carbon stock areas and highly biodiverse areas.
- A common greenhouse gas calculation methodology which could be used to ensure that minimum greenhouse gas savings from biomass are at least 35 per cent (rising to 50 per cent in 2017 and 60 per cent in 2018 for new installations) compared to the EU's fossil energy mix.
- A differentiation of national support schemes in favour of installations that achieve high-energy conversion efficiencies.
- Monitoring of the origin of biomass.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss progress on sustainability criteria for biomass in Germany, a leading Member State in the field and define how they affect future biomass streams from the agriculture & forestry sectors.

Presentations are available at www.biomassfutures.eu

Finding Out More

- Details of the work and publications from Biomass Futures can be found at www.biofutures.org
- To discuss the research being conducted and register interest in results or stakeholder participation please contact c.panoutsou@imperial.ac.uk
- To register to receive updates and briefings from the team contact bkretschmer@ieep.eu