



# BIOENERGY NETWORK Bulletin

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## SCOTTISH BIOENERGY NETWORK

This is the fifth edition of the Bioenergy Network Bulletin.

Previously, Bioenergy Network Bulletins were issued twice yearly. Due to discussions within the Bioenergy Network Steering Group, the Bulletins are now planned to be issued monthly over 2008.

The Bioenergy Network was established by Scottish Renewables as a result of the recommendations in the 2005 Biomass Group report of the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS). The Network aims to coordinate activities and inform representatives from across the bioenergy community in Scotland in order to promote development of the sector overall.

This Bulletin provides an update on recent policy developments in bioenergy, events and other relevant initiatives. The Network is supported by the Scottish Government, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and the Confederation of Forest Industries.

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## Policy Update

### **European Renewables Framework Directive**

This month the European Commission published its Proposal for a Directive on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources. The Proposal "aims to establish an overall binding target of a 20% share of renewable energy sources in energy consumption and a 10% binding minimum target for biofuels in transport to be achieved by each Member State," as well as setting out a system to ensure "*inter alia* that the biofuels counting towards the targets achieve a minimum level of greenhouse gas savings." To see the Proposal in full, visit the press release on the [European Commission website](#).

## **National Planning Framework 2**

The Scottish Government launched a discussion draft of its National Planning Framework this month. The draft talked of a statement of need for transmission upgrades to support the development of renewables, as well as emphasising the important role of planning to deliver sustainable heat solutions. The consultation on NPF 2 will finish on 15 April 2008. The document is available to view on the [relevant pages](#) of the Scottish Government website.

## **Woodfuel Task Force Report**

The Woodfuel Task Force presented its report to Environment Minister Michael Russell on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, setting out 26 key recommendations on how to increase the supply of wood for renewable energy production. The full report can be accessed on the relevant section of the [Forestry Commission website](#).

## **Energy from Waste Strategy**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Richard Lochhead MSP set out plans for a zero-waste Scotland in a statement to Parliament this month. The plans included targets for energy from waste, with a cap of 25% of municipal waste to be used for this purpose by 2025. A National Waste Management Plan is to be consulted on this year, with the formation of a Zero Waste Think Tank. For more details on the statement, please see the [official report](#) on the Scottish Parliament website.

## **Biofuels Debate**

There was much debate this month on the sustainability of biofuels and implications for Government support. The Smithsonian Institute and the Royal Society separately voiced concerns that without the correct conditions for support, biofuels could be environmentally damaging. The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee called for a moratorium on support for biofuels. For more information, see the following articles online:

- [Burning biofuels may be worse than coal and oil, say experts](#) (Smithsonian Institute)
- [Demand for policy reform](#) (The Royal Society)
- [Renewable Energy Association response to Environmental Audit Committee's Report](#) (The Environmental Audit Committee)

## **Funding Update**

### **Energy Bill & RO Response**

The UK Energy Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008. For more information on its progress, please view the [Energy Bill 2007-08 pages](#) on the UK Parliament website. The UK Government response to the Reform of the Renewables Obligation consultation was also published on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008. There have been certain changes in relation to banding of co-firing of regular biomass and sewage gas. View the response on the [relevant section](#) of the BERR website.

### **ROS Response**

This month the Scottish Government published its response to the Consultation on the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Order 2008. The response confirmed that banding would be introduced into the ROS mechanism, and that there would be a full consultation on this topic later in the year. For more information, please contact the [Network Secretary](#).

## Upcoming Events

### **Scottish Forest Industries Cluster**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2008 (week of), various locations around Scotland.  
Further information: [Woodfuel Seminars: From Forest to Fire](#)

### **2008 Timber Transport Forum Conference**

4th Mar 2008 - Carlisle, England. [Navigating the Future](#)

### **Official opening of Steven's Croft Biomass Power Station**

18th Mar 2008 - Lockerbie, Scotland.

### **Scottish Renewables Annual Conference**

Meeting the Challenge - 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March, Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh. Further details:  
[www.annualconference.co.uk](http://www.annualconference.co.uk)

For further information on Bioenergy events, please see the [Network calendar](#) on the Scottish Renewables website.

## Industry News

### **Angus Biofuels**

John Swinney formally opened the Angus Biofuels wood-chipping facility at Forfar on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. For more information on the opening, see the [BBC Scotland report](#).

### **Viridor Oxwellmains**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> January, waste management company Viridor submitted its application for planning permission to build a CHP energy from waste plant at Oxwellmains, near Dunbar. The plant would use 450,000 tonnes of waste residues a year, to produce 34MW of electricity, alongside heat output. More information about the project can be found on the [Viridor Oxwellmains site](#).

## Industry Resources

The [www.usewoodfuel.co.uk](http://www.usewoodfuel.co.uk) website provides a wealth of basic and practical information on the use of woodfuel, from heating your home to developing a large-scale energy plant. There is a broad overview of the key features of woodfuel as well as further information on wood burning technologies or how to set up a woodfuel supply. The website also provides useful contacts, links and further information.

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The Bioenergy Network is coordinated by Scottish Renewables' Bioenergy Development Officer, Morna Cannon. Ms Cannon is contactable on 0141 222 7925 or by emailing [morna@scottishrenewables.com](mailto:morna@scottishrenewables.com). Copies of previous editions of the Bioenergy Network Bulletin and details of Network events are available on the Network micro-site on the Scottish Renewables' website at: [www.scottishrenewables.com](http://www.scottishrenewables.com)

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