



BIOENERGY NETWORK Bulletin

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SCOTTISH BIOENERGY NETWORK

This is the **seventh** 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.

Policy Update

Biofuels Debate

This month, the Conservative Party called for the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) to be suspended, due to concerns about the environmental impacts of biofuel production and use. At the start of the month, the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor John Beddington, voiced his concerns at the potentially damaging effects on food security of increased biofuel production (click [here](#) for more). Also this month, Professor Robert Watson, Chief Scientist at the Department for the Environment, called for the introduction of the RTFO to be postponed until the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) study is complete, while environmental and development groups joined voices to lobby Government on the same point (click [here](#) for more). At a European level, there were indications at an EU summit mid-March that the European Commission might be willing to reconsider its biofuels strategy if convincing arguments for such a revision were put

forward (click [here](#) for more). The 12th March saw the Chancellor for the Exchequer set out the 2008 budget, with the announcement that the duty differential for biofuels will cease in 2011 (click [here](#) for more). Biofuels-supporters also claimed a lack of clear commitment in the Budget to the continuance of the RTFO past 2011 (click [here](#) for more) On the 13th March, the RFA received the terms of reference for their review of the indirect effects of biofuel production, and on the 20th announced a one-month call for evidence for its study.

Biogas regulations

The European Parliament this month called on the European Commission to reform regional and rural development funding legislation in order to promote the production of biogas from organic sources (click [here](#) for more).

Zero Waste Task Force

The 26th March saw the first meeting of the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Think Tank, chaired by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead MSP. The Group was announced in a statement to Parliament in January, and is composed of 13 experts pulled together to discuss the means by which Scotland can start to become a zero-waste society. For more information about the Task Force, please contact the network secretary (morna@scottishrenewables.com).

Ofgem review

At the start of the month, Ofgem announced the commencement of a two-year review of the 20 year-old regime currently governing the gas and electricity markets. The review will assess the current regime and any changes that need to be made to deal with the new challenges of Government ambitions for renewables, increases in small-scale distributed generation and network interconnection with Europe. For more information please [click](#) here.

Funding Update

SRDP funding released

March saw the release of the first tranche of funding under the Scottish Rural Development Programme. The £57.7 million was part of the LEADER funding, and will be distributed by 16 Local Action Groups (LAGs) according to their strategies which, generally, will aim to "increase competitiveness in agriculture and forestry, improve the environment and the countryside, and enhance the quality of life in rural areas." For more information, please [click](#) here.

Upcoming Events

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

16.04.08	Developing the Northeast Woodfuel Economy <i>Highland Birchwoods</i>	Keith, Scotland
23.04.08 - 24.04.08	Carbon Lean UK - A Role for our Trees, Woods, Forests <i>Institute of Chartered Foresters National Conference</i>	Edinburgh, Scotland
29.04.08	Biofuels Conference <i>London Biofuels Media Ltd</i>	London, England
07.05.08	New Compliance Assessment Scheme Stakeholders	Edinburgh,

	Workshop SEPA	Scotland
14.05.08	Maximise Recycling and Minimise Waste in Scotland MRW	Glasgow, Scotland
21.05.08 - 22.05.08	All-Energy 08 All Energy	Aberdeen, Scotland
27.05.08 - 29.05.08	World Bioenergy 2008 World Bioenergy	Jonkoping, Sweden

Industry News

E.ON biomass power station opened by First Minister

First Minister Alex Salmond officially opened the 44MW E.ON Steven's Croft biomass power station at Lockerbie on the 19th March. For more information, please contact the Network Secretary (morna@scottishrenewables.com).

Quaker porridge power

Quaker, makers of Scott's Porridge Oats, announced in March plans to install a £6m combined heat and power biomass boiler at its factory Uthrogie Mills, near Cupar in Fife. The boiler is expected to generate 9,709 MWhrs of electricity and 10,902 MWhrs of heat to the factory a year, and will run on oat husks, part of the residue of the production process. For more information, click [here](#).

Viridor Oxwellmains halted

On the 11th March, Viridor Waste Management announced that their application for an Energy from Waste facility near Dunbar had been put on hold pending review by the company. The application, proposed in 2007, had faced loud opposition in the area. For more information, click [here](#).

Cord whisky plans

In March, a consortium of Scottish whisky companies, Cord (The Combination of Rothes Distilleries), lodged a planning application with Moray Council to build a £24m combined heat and power plant fuelled by biomass at Rothes. The 7.2MW plant would be built in conjunction with Helius Energy plc, and would run on draff and pot ale from the distilling process. For more information, please click [here](#).

SBSS wood chip plant opened

On the 28th March, First Minister Alex Salmond opened the Dalfling Heating Plant at Blairduff, near Inverurie. The plant uses wood chips produced by new company Tree Logic Wood Energy, which takes material from the farm woodland, alongside forestry and arboriculture biomass. The heating plant itself is fuelled by a 55kW boiler supplied by Highland Wood Energy, using heating mains from Grampain Heat and Power technology, and will heat 4 commercial and four residential properties on the farm. For more information, please contact the Network Secretary (morna@scottishrenewables.com).

Industry Resources

The 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.

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. 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

