



BIOENERGY NETWORK Bulletin

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SCOTTISH BIOENERGY NETWORK

This is the sixth 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 Review

Transport Minister Ruth Kelly has tasked the Renewable Fuels Agency [RFA] (established in October 2007 to oversee the implementation of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation) with reviewing the economic and environmental impacts of biofuel production. This is to ensure any impacts can be taken into account in the formulation of renewable transport fuel policy beyond 2010. The RFA is due to report back early Summer this year. For more information, see the [RFA website](#).

Scottish Green Energy Centre

At the European Movement Energy Conference in Aberdeen this month, First Minister Alex Salmond, announced the Scottish Government's intention to establish a new Scottish European Green Energy Centre. The Centre will be based in Aberdeen, and will draw on existing strong research and industry links. For more information, please see the [Scottish Government press release](#).

Funding Update

The Pyrolysis Challenge

The Carbon Trust has called for Expressions of Interest from potential partners with which to carry out research projects into the pyrolysis oil upgrading process. The Trust is looking to invest £5m in one or two projects over the next 3 to 5 years. For more information, please see these pages of the [Carbon Trust website](#).

Defra budget settlement - Environmental Transformation Fund

Hilary Benn MP has announced an extra £400 million of funding for clean energy as part of the 2008/09 budget settlement for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Carbon Trust will receive £47.4 million from the Environmental Transformation Fund, to aid the development of several renewables sectors, including biomass heating. There will also be a £10 million anaerobic digestion demonstration scheme, supporting up to four commercial scale facilities. For more information on the ETF, please see these pages of the [Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website](#).

Upcoming Events

Scottish Forest Industries Cluster

3rd 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 - 19th-20th March, Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh. Further details:
www.annualconference.co.uk

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

Industry News

Arbuthnott Wood Pellets

Arbuthnott Wood Pellets began production of their "Stovies" pellets at their Stonehaven plant this month. The £1 million facility is capable of producing two tonnes of the pellets per hour. The products are produced with sawdust from local woodland within 50 miles of the plant.

Balcas

Construction of Balcas's Invergordon Wood Pellet plant is expected to commence next month. The facility will produce Balcas's "Brites" pellets, and will be self-sufficient in electricity while also supplying 5MW power to the National Grid. The plant is expected to be fully operational by March 2009.

Virgin Biofuel Flight

This month saw the flight of the first commercial jet to use biofuel. The Virgin Atlantic flight from London Heathrow to Amsterdam ran partly on biofuel produced from babassu nuts and coconuts. Environmental campaigners dubbed the flight a publicity stunt, and pointed to sustainability concerns over the production of biofuels.

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

