

# EIUG Position Statement on Energy from Biomass and Waste

25<sup>th</sup> September 2015

EIUG supports the government's policy of allowing the market to deliver secure energy supplies through a diverse range of sources. We therefore recognise that there is a legitimate role for affordable biomass, waste biomass and mixed waste containing biomass fractions within the UK energy mix. These materials can lessen the national reliance on imported fossil fuels and assist some UK manufacturing companies' contribution to decarbonisation.

Biomass and waste biomass fuels are easily storable, and potentially suitable for providing dispatchable industrial heat for fossil fuel switching. As identified in the recent Industrial Decarbonisation Roadmaps a number of sectors may make use of these materials to contribute to their decarbonisation<sup>1</sup>. Additionally biomass is increasingly the choice of low carbon combustion based power generation to back up the rapidly growing capacity of intermittent renewable power sources such as wind and solar.

EIUG recognises that the volume of these resources is ultimately limited and that they already form the feedstock for a number of manufacturing industries. EIUG defers comment on these alternative uses to its members with those interests, but notes that in contrast to biomass use for manufacturing, much of the power generation/heat use is incentivised.

In this regard, EIUG has serious concerns about the unintended impact of biomass and waste energy promotion policies on the availability and costs of these materials for industrial users. Increased demand for biomass in power generation, for example, is leading to scarcity and higher prices of biomass.

If left unchecked, policies which influence the biomass and waste markets in favour of generation and against industrial uses will compound the international competitiveness threats faced by some energy intensive industry sectors and could reduce the rate of decarbonisation of heat in some industrial sectors.

EIUG therefore believes a balance needs to be struck between the desire to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the need to preserve competitive and secure energy supplies, and the heat, electricity and raw material requirements of energy intensive manufacturing industries that have to compete in increasingly international markets.

EIUG calls for a review of the UK's biomass demand for power generation, industry and other uses, together with a review of the energy policy and incentive system to ensure parity in the market place. The government should also work towards a national waste strategy to recover the various components of waste and ensure they are recycled in an optimal way, whether for their material benefits or end-of-life energy recovery.

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<sup>1</sup> Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps to 2050  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-decarbonisation-and-energy-efficiency-roadmaps-to-2050>