

# **Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement – Scottish Government consultation**

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

## **1 Executive summary**

Scottish Government has released a consultation on the Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement. This statement outlines the short, medium and long-term role for bioenergy in helping deliver Scotland's transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

The consultation closes on 12 June 2024. [Click here](#) to respond to the consultation. [Click here](#) to read the full consultation paper.

## **2 Background**

The draft policy statement has been developed by a Bioenergy Policy Working Group and taken advice from the Climate Change Committee and other stakeholders.

The Scottish Government believes that bioenergy has huge potential to reduce emissions when used with carbon capture and storage technology. Bioenergy can convert organic material into a renewable energy source; biomass feedstock can be processed to produce a liquid biofuel or biogas. Bioenergy has a lot of value as a 'drop-in' fuel which can displace fossil fuels in the short-term, and for the long-term it offers potential for negative emissions.

The draft guiding principles of the strategic framework are:

1. Use of biomass must comply with stringent sustainability criteria
2. The bioenergy sector should prioritise the use of available waste feedstocks
3. Use of biomass should be prioritized towards practices where there are limited options to replace fossil fuels
4. Use of biomass must support emissions reduction and the pathway to net-zero by 2045
5. Use of biomass must comply with all environmental regulations as set out by SEPA
6. Biomass feedstock production and use of bioenergy technologies should facilitate these sustainable development goals - Scotland should be a world leader in affordable and clean energy with a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy; we have a thriving and innovative jobs and fair work, and we will focus on creating a more successful country, Scotland is recognized for its leadership in encouraging and promoting a more circular economy, we will tackle climate change and enhance and protect Scotland's biodiversity

The Scottish Government believes that the priority use for bioenergy should be facilitating carbon removal with carbon capture and storage technologies. In the medium and long-term, they believe that it is important to use this mainly in areas that are critical for achieving net zero and in sectors which are hard to decarbonise.

The table below outlines the current sectoral uses for bioenergy from now until 2035, and beyond 2035:

<b>Sectors Short to medium-term (out to 2035)</b>	
Power	Existing biomass power and biomass / biogas Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants. New biogas CHP plants which utilise waste resources
Heat	Biomethane injection to the gas grid, local district heating schemes or for emergency back-up systems using biogenic feedstock. Biomass or biofuels may be the only solution for existing properties that are currently not suitable for clean heating systems
Transport	Biofuels for Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDV) and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV), maritime or agricultural vehicles. Use of biomass for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production and use of biofuels for rail transport where electrification of lines is not currently possible
Industry	Distilleries and breweries, pulp and paper mill, wood panel and pellet production, fuel switching from fossil fuels with potential for linking to future CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) infrastructure

<b>Sectors Longer term (beyond 2035)</b>	
Power	Electricity generation and hydrogen production. Both technologies having been identified as having potential for being used with carbon capture and with recoverable heat being used - for example offsite in district heating schemes
Heat	Limited use in district heating and potentially biomass / biofuel heating systems in existing homes where no other clean heating solutions are suitable
Transport	Resources directed towards aviation and synthetic fuel production with CCS
Industry	Use of BECCS within distilleries and breweries, pulp and paper mill, wood panel and pellet production and the cement industry

The consultation is looking at a range of different options for the priority uses of bioenergy, opinions on the phasing out of unabated combustion of biomass, the use of carbon capture and storage technologies and the future use of domestic perennial energy crops at a commercial scale.

### **3 Consultation questions**

1. Do you agree with the overarching principles for use of bioenergy, as set out in the draft Bioenergy Policy Statement on pages 7 - 8?

2. Do you agree with the priority uses of bioenergy, as set out in the draft Bioenergy Policy Statement on pages 10 - 11?

3. Do you agree with the intention to phase out unabated combustion of biomass?

4. Should there be a minimum threshold at which carbon capture should be considered for bioenergy technologies and should refurbishment of plants also be included?

5. From what date should any mandate to consider carbon capture technology be implemented for bioenergy plants?

6. Should decarbonisation options other than fitting carbon capture and storage technology be considered suitable as part of decarbonisation requirements for biomass plants, for example use of waste heat as part of a combined heat and power (CHP) plant or heat network?

7. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) advise that the UK will need 700,000 hectares of perennial energy crops by 2050 to meet their pathway to net zero. How much could Scotland contribute towards this figure and what evidence is available to support your view?

8. What would encourage you to use biomass from domestic perennial energy crops as a feedstock?

9. What are the opportunities or challenges to growing perennial energy crops and what would encourage planting at a commercial scale in Scotland?

10. Can you provide best practice examples which could help integrate energy crops within the landscape and within the agriculture sector?

11. Can you provide best practice examples which could help restore and regenerate biodiversity, alongside energy crops?

#### **4 APSE Comment**

APSE encourages our members in Scotland to respond to this consultation. It is important that the views of local authorities are fully considered in the Scottish Government's pursuit to achieve net zero by 2045.

APSE would also recommend that members take part in our [Climate Change and Renewables Network](#), the group meets several times a year and is a great source of best practice on carbon reduction.

APSE also runs a bespoke local authority energy collaboration called APSE Energy that provides briefings, publications, events, consultancy and other services for councils, for more information on this please [click here](#).

APSE Training also runs several online courses on carbon literacy for elected members, leaders and managers, local authorities, and town and parish councils. There is a discounted rate for APSE members. More information can be found on our website [here](#).

**Garry Lee,**  
**Research and Coordination Officer**  
[glee@apse.org.uk](mailto:glee@apse.org.uk)

**Louise Melville,**  
**Principal Advisor (Scotland)**  
[lmelville@apse.org.uk](mailto:lmelville@apse.org.uk)

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Association for Public Service Excellence  
3rd floor,  
Trafford House,  
Chester Road, Manchester M32 0RS.  
telephone: 0161 772 1810  
fax: 0161 772 1811  
web: [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)

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