

All Energy – Biomass Panel
**The UK Biomass Strategy – An
Industry Overview**

10th May 2023

Mark Sommerfeld

Head of Power and Flexibility, REA



About the Association for Renewable Energy And Clean Technology (REA)

UK's largest trade association for renewable energy and clean technologies

Around 550 members operating across heat, power, transport, and the circular bioeconomy.

Not-for-profit representing renewable energy and clean technology companies operating in over fourteen sectors, from biogas and renewable fuels to solar and electric vehicle charging and composting to biomass.

Member organisations range from major multinationals to sole traders

Member forums involved in Bioenergy:

- Green Gas Forum
- Biomass Power Forum (Biomass UK)
- Wood Heat Forum
- Renewable Transport Fuel Forum
- Waste to Energy (including subgroup on Gasification and Pyrolysis)

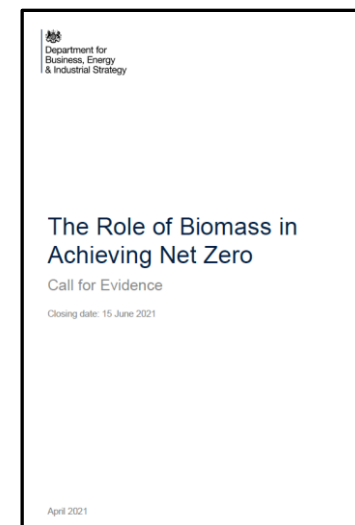
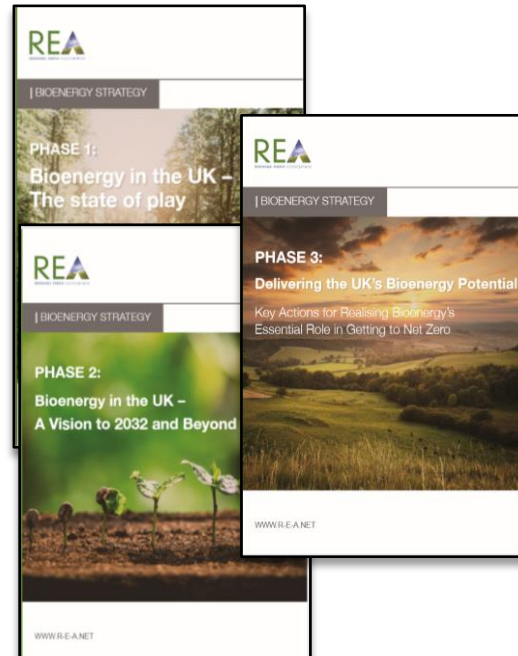


A New Biomass Strategy

“Sustainably harvested biomass can play a significant role in meeting long-term climate targets, provided it is prioritised for the most valuable end-uses”. CCC, 2018, Biomass in a Low Carbon Economy

“There is widespread acceptance that biomass, including bioenergy with CCS and energy from waste, has a key role to play in achieving net zero. The question is where and how biomass is best used to deliver on our targets – whether that is for generating electricity or other purposes.”

BEIS, Government Response to CCC 2020 Progress Report to Parliament.

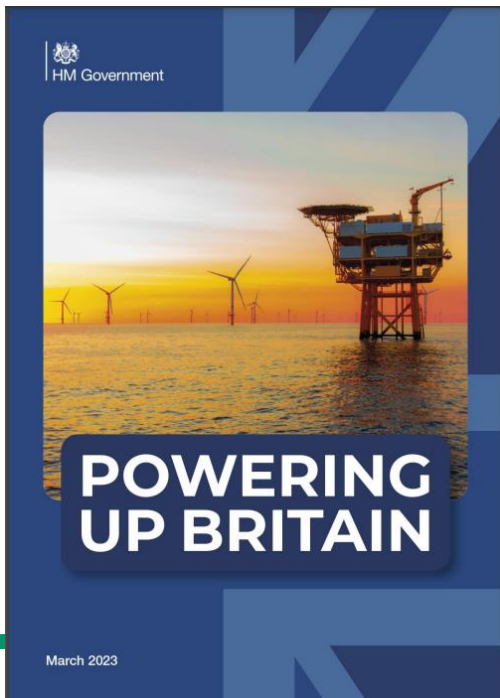


‘Refresh the UK’s Bioenergy Strategy...’

Four Focus areas:

- Biomass Supply
- End-Use for Biomass (*Determining ‘best use’*)
- Sustainability and Accounting for Emissions
- Innovation

When?



- Within both Energy Security Plan and Net Zero Growth Plan Government reiterates that Biomass does have a role to play in both net zero and energy security. They restate the Biomass Policy Statement from 2021
- Recommits to the publication of the Biomass Strategy, and for the first time, provide a more refined timeframe of seeing it published **“by the end of June 2023”**.
- They reiterate that the strategy will review the amount of sustainable biomass available , along with the role of BECCS and how it could be deployed.
- Elsewhere also seeing development of Power BECCS, Greenhouse Gas Removal and Hydrogen Business Models,

Cross-Whitehall



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Department
for Transport



HM Treasury



Department for
International Trade



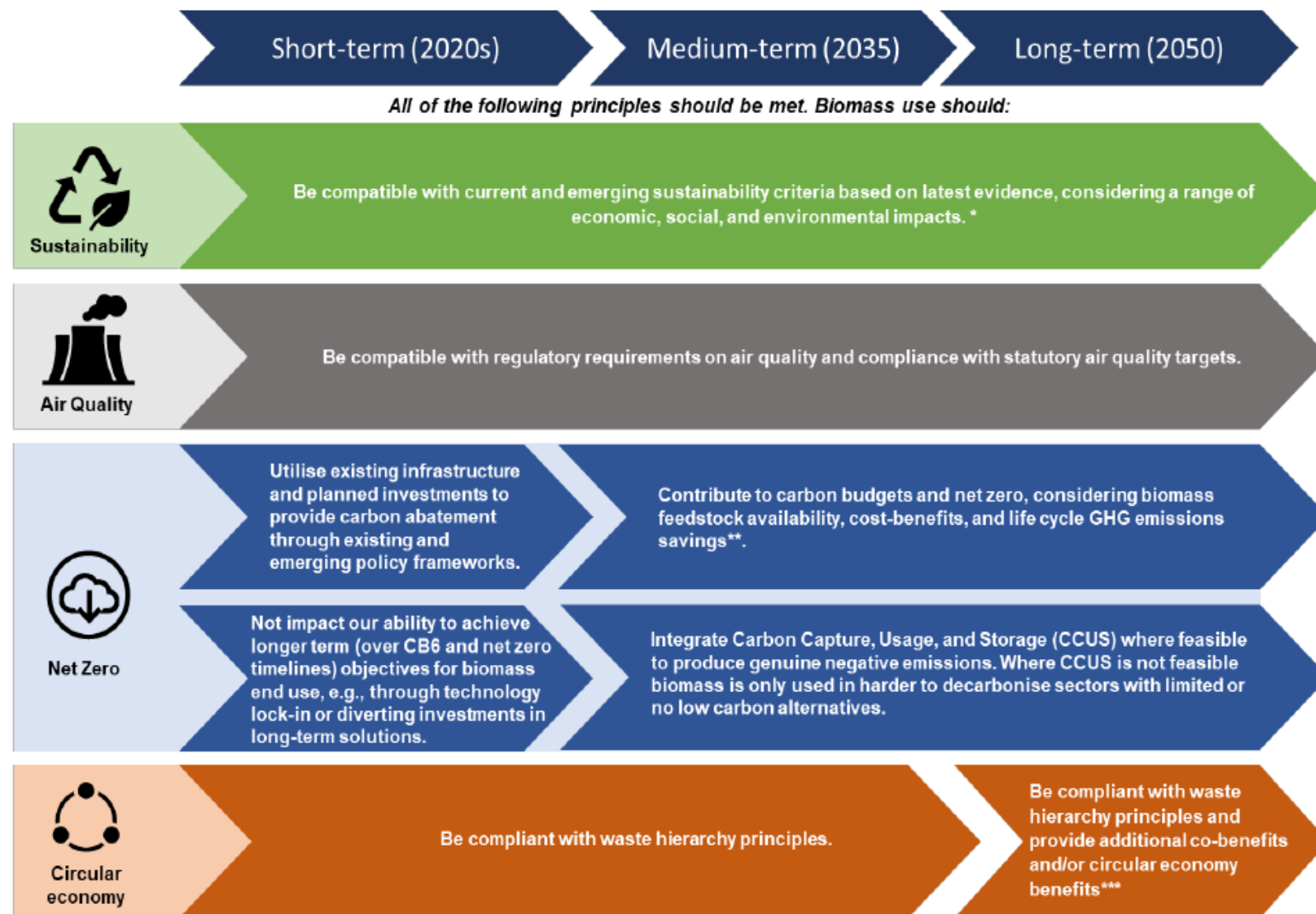
Biomass Policy Statement

Nov 2021

To be reviewed by the strategy:

- UK and Global Bioenergy Resource Model.
- Evidence on the amount of domestic arable (food and feed) crops for bioenergy use that could be available.
- Current sustainability criteria for biomass applied across government.
- The regulatory landscape for pollutant emissions from biomass to ensure any gaps are addressed.
- The priority use framework to ensure it is consistent with net zero targets.

Figure 2: Overarching priority use principles for biomass use over three timescales: 2020's, up to 2035, and to 2050.



* Further work is being carried out to review the UK's existing sustainability criteria, including exploring ways to harmonise the criteria across sectors to promote fair competition. Details to follow in the Biomass Strategy.

** Compared to GHG emissions of appropriate counterfactuals.

*** e.g., by-products are used to make other high value products which can be utilised elsewhere in the economy.

Some Key Messages From Industry

- The Biomass Strategy must build on existing bioenergy sectors - across power, heat and transport - to realise its net zero ambitions
- Delivery of innovation like BECCS will come from maintaining existing supply chains, skills and investors.
- Stringent sustainability governance arrangements are already in place and ensure a sustainable sector that can grow.
- The UK needs to increase domestic biomass feedstock availability, this can be done by rewarding the environmental services of tree planting and energy crop cultivation.
- Imports of biomass feedstocks will also remain important
- Bioenergy delivers a UK Bioeconomy that supports jobs and green growth, this needs to be maintained.



Gaps in realising this future

Policy Gaps

- Upcoming end to the Renewable Obligation
- Route to market for BECCS, new and retrofit.
- Industrial and commercial heat decarbonisation support following end of the Non-Domestic RHI.
- More Ambitious Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation
- Support growth of innovative biomass feedstocks, such as perennial energy crop, rewarding environmental services.
- Supportive regulatory framework for advanced conversion technologies.
- Strong carbon price that rewards negative emissions.

Knowledge Gaps

- Updated data on domestic and imported biomass availability.
- Availability of marginal land for energy crops
- Universal carbon accounting methodology for negative emissions.
- How global markets and prices will change.
- How waste streams will change in the future.
- Dynamics with other bioresource uses.



Mark Sommerfeld, Head of Power and Flexibility
msommerfeld@r-e-a.net

