

The next government's first 100 days in office

Biomass UK, the REA member forum for biomass power, highlights the six key steps that the next Government could take in its first 100 days in office in relation to ensuring a sustainable biomass sector.

REA objective: using a range of technologies, including biomass power and Bioenergy Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) to achieve a fully decarbonised, secure, and affordable electricity system by 2032.

These are the immediate steps the next Government will need to take to achieve this:

1. Provide transitional support arrangements for **large scale generators**, as consulted on earlier this year. Maintaining this vital generation, while transitioning to carbon removal technologies, like BECCS, is critical for both energy security and ensuring the UK meets its decarbonisation targets.

Such support will maintain important low carbon generation, while enabling longer term investment in bioenergy carbon capture and storage, providing the pathway to critical negative emissions for getting to net zero. BECCS will unlock critical investment, create more jobs, and put the UK at the forefront of delivering a green industrial strategy.

2. Provide policy certainty to **small and medium scale** biomass generators to keep their low carbon generation assets generating as they come to the end of their Renewables Obligation contracts from 2027 onwards. This includes waste wood and non-woody biomass sites where, with the right government support, low carbon capacity can be maintained and a pathway to commercial BECCS provided.

Certainty is needed within the next 12 months, if these sites are going to be able to secure new investment and continue to generate. Sub 100 MW biomass power sites account for more than 1100 MW of capacity in the UK, making a significant contribution to low-carbon energy supplies and, in many cases, essential waste management capacity diverting waste wood and other biogenic waste streams from landfill. In 2022, waste wood sites saved 734,000 tonnes of carbon compared to fossil generation and could deliver 3.5Mt of carbon removals every year.

3. Publish the cluster sequencing for carbon capture, usage, and storage (CCUS): Track-1 expansion and Track-2 as soon as possible to enable successful projects to enter the negotiation phase with government by the end of the year. This will enable initial projects to deploy on time.

Developers also need confidence that CCS contracts are going to be available this year, if they are to reach financial close and build out in line with UK net zero ambitions.

4. Provide an update on the status of the Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGR) and power-BECCS business models, including the publication of a heads of terms for the latter, by the end of the year. This will ensure the delivery of negative emissions in the energy sector by 2030.

This will also build market confidence in Greenhouse Gas Removals and keep projects on track for initial deployment from 2028-29.

5. Publish the Cross Sectoral Sustainability Framework consultation as committed to in the Biomass Strategy 2023 to ensure principles are followed across all bioenergy sectors. This will ensure the UK maintains world leading sustainability governance arrangements and boost confidence in the sector.

This will build public confidence, and provide industry with clarity about future requirements, necessary for securing long-term investment in sustainable supply chains.

6. Publish a long-term strategy with clear targets for increasing domestic feedstock growth, including Perennial Energy Crops (PECs) and Short Rotation Forestry (SRF). This would help establish a commercial business case for PECs and SRF and grow confidence in the economic and environmental benefits of the crops.

Targets should be officially committed to, providing confidence and direction to the market. A strategic pathway should identify and focus on key regions for growth, supporting farmers and landowners increase available hectareage for energy crops on appropriate marginal land.



About the REA

The REA is working towards a future built on renewable energy and clean technology. We represent around 500 member companies from across the renewable energy, recycling, energy storage and electric vehicle sectors. We influence and inform whilst championing and empowering our members; so, they are profitable, sustainable commercial businesses. Together we are decarbonising the economy.

Biomass UK is the REA members forum for Biomass Power. It includes the largest group of Biomass Power generators in the UK, ranging in size and utilising a range of feedstocks from waste wood, to compressed wood pellets, agricultural and energy crops, like willow, miscanthus, and straw, to biogas and biofuels.

Get in touch

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