

agendaNi seminar

Developing bioenergy

The next renewables opportunity

Tuesday 7th September
Dunadry Hotel,
Co Antrim



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Bioenergy in Northern Ireland's energy mix

The current level of bioenergy exploitation in Northern Ireland is very low (less than 1% of renewable electricity). This is despite favourable conditions within the local energy market where there is limited penetration of natural gas and where a high proportion of users are dependent on heating oil, electricity and coal. Northern Ireland is on course to meet its 2012 renewable energy targets, mainly from onshore wind generation but the draft Strategic Energy Framework published in 2009 proposed a renewable electricity target by 2020 of 40% for Northern Ireland with a target for renewable heat of at least 10%. If these targets are to be achieved it will be vital to develop renewable resources and capability beyond wind and this provides a valuable opportunity for bioenergy. This is a view shared by key energy sector players at the recent Energy Ireland conference when delegates were polled and they highlighted the bioenergy sector as a target for future growth.

Opportunities from bioenergy

Developing Northern Ireland's bioenergy resource provides opportunities for a wide range of organisations and sectors. For Government it helps address security of supply issues and meet renewable energy targets; for businesses there are opportunities to produce and sell bioenergy fuels and technologies; for the agriculture sector there is a chance to diversify production and branch out into new energy supply businesses and for individuals and energy users there is an opportunity to lower their carbon footprint and reduce energy costs. The wide ranging and cross-cutting nature of the bioenergy challenge has led to a number of government departments and agencies coming together to draft a Bioenergy Action Plan for 2009-2014 setting out how Northern Ireland can capitalise on its valuable natural energy resources.

Speaker panel



Pearse Buckley is Programme Manager for Biomass and CHP with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, where he is responsible for the promotion of bioenergy and CHP through strategy development and for providing policy advice to government in this area. He spent 13 years in Canada working as a product engineer. On his return to Ireland he was involved in research into energy from biomass at Trinity College and subsequently worked for a waste management company before joining Sustainable Energy Ireland in 2002.



Richard Halleron is an agricultural chemist by background. He is a past chairman of the Northern Ireland Institute of Agricultural Science and has also served as Chairman of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists in Northern Ireland. Richard currently writes on agri-food issues for a wide range of business publications, including agendaNI magazine.



Alan Little is Senior Quantity Surveyor with Carvill Group Ltd, which is recognised as one of the most progressive property development companies in the UK and Ireland. Woodbrook Eco village in Lisburn is an example of Carvill Group's commitment to plan, promote and deliver large scale sustainable communities for the private market. Alan's involvement in Woodbrook includes implementing the procurement, installation, operation and maintenance arrangements for the biomass fuelled district heating system, which has now been in operation for 24 months.



Ali Lloyd is a Principal Consultant with Pöyry Energy Consulting, having joined the company in February 2010. He brings 19 years of commercial experience in UK energy markets. He has a detailed knowledge of the UK electricity market including support schemes for renewable and CHP generators. He has performed a variety of roles ranging from trading and risk management, business development, contract management, and regulatory affairs.



David McKee is a chartered chemical engineer, and is currently Technical Director of B9 Organic Energy Ltd. B9 has a wealth of experience in developing renewable energy projects, including obtaining the required planning permissions, licensing, grid connections, power purchase agreements as well as all associated technical and financial requirements. David is currently involved in developing a large scale industrial anaerobic digestion facility in Northern Ireland, as well as working with local farmers to develop some smaller agricultural systems.



Richard Murphy is a Senior Associate in McGrigor's energy team and is based in the firm's Belfast office. Richard has extensive experience advising on M&A, commercial contract and regulatory/competition issues in the energy sector, particularly wind and bioenergy projects. Richard is rated as a leading individual for energy work in Chambers UK and is also cited in the Legal 500 for corporate work in Northern Ireland.



Joe O'Carroll has 16 years experience in the agri/energy industry in Ireland, UK, USA, Central America and East Africa, covering senior management roles in both public and private sector organisations. He is a Board Member of the Biorefinery & Bioenergy Competence Centre, a national R&D programme funded by the Irish Government to drive bioenergy innovation.

09.00 Chairman's welcome and introduction:
Richard Halleron, Agricultural Journalist

Developing the cross-departmental bioenergy action plan

Barbara Swann, Sustainable Energy
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment

Promoting renewable energy in the agriculture and forestry sectors

Joyce Rutherford, Renewable Energy Unit
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Bioenergy technology overview

Jim Gannon
Associate Director, RPS Group

Integrating bioenergy into energy markets

Ali Lloyd, Principal Consultant
Pöyry Energy Consulting

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

10.45 Morning coffee / networking break

11.15 *Realising the potential of bioenergy*
Joe O'Carroll, Managing Director
Imperative Energy Ltd

Financing and delivering large scale energy projects
Richard Murphy, Senior Associate, McGrigors

Ireland's bioenergy roadmap

Pearse Buckley, Programme Manager,
Biomass & CHP
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Developing Northern Ireland's bioenergy sector

David McKee, Technical Director
B9 Organic Energy Ltd

Investing in bioenergy for the domestic sector

Alan Little, Senior Quantity Surveyor
The Carvill Group

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

13.15 Chairman's summary and seminar close
followed by networking lunch



“The successful and sustainable development of bioenergy has the potential to contribute to security of supply, deliver carbon emission reductions, provide business and employment opportunities as well as contributing to the challenging renewable energy targets proposed within the draft Strategic Energy Framework.”

Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Investment, **Arlene Foster, MLA**
August 2009

