

**biofuelwatch**

## #AxeDrax: No to coal and to forest -destroying biomass electricity



*Drax is burning vast amounts of wood pellets made from clearcut wetland forests in the southern US.*

Drax burns more wood than any other power station in the world, and more coal than any other plant in the UK.

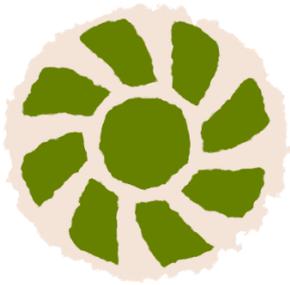
Drax is burning pellets made from 13 million tonnes of wood every year—that's more than the total annual wood production in the UK.

Most of Drax's pellets are imported from North America and many come from the clearcutting of the remnants of highly biodiverse coastal wetland forests in the southern US. Some pellets come from monoculture pine plantations which are replacing such diverse forests.

This is bad news for the climate, too: Forests store and absorb large amounts of carbon. Trees take decades to grow whereas pellets are burned in an instant. Studies show that the climate impacts of cutting down trees for biomass electricity are no better than those of coal when looked at over a period of many decades—i.e. during the crucial period when global carbon emissions must be rapidly cut.

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*Cerrejón in Colombia: One of the largest opencast coal mines in the world, which supplies some of Drax's coal. Whole villages have been evicted for this mine and indigenous communities suffer malnutrition as a result.*



## ***Drax remains one of the two biggest coal burning plant in the UK***

If Drax wasn't burning millions of tonnes of wood, the power station would have to shut down. Subsidies for biomass allow it to keep burning millions of tonnes of coal every year, too. Coal has the highest upfront carbon emissions of all fossil fuels (though wood has even higher ones!). Most of Drax's coal comes from Colombia, where opencast mines are linked to serious human rights abuses and land-grabs, as well as water and air pollution.

Drax is getting at around **£1.5million** in subsidies **every single day**. Those subsidies are paid through a surcharge on electricity bills. This is a surcharge which ought to finance clean, low-carbon renewable energy, not forest destruction and coal burning.

Without such massive subsidies, Drax would have to close down.

## **April Protest s in London and York**

***Environmental campaigners have been protesting at each Drax AGM since 2013. On 13/04/17, there will be a protest outside Drax's AGM in York, and a simultaneous one in London, targeting Drax's biggest investors:***

***[biofuelwatch.org.uk/2017/axedrax-agm-2017/](http://biofuelwatch.org.uk/2017/axedrax-agm-2017/)***

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