



BIOFUELWATCH CAMPAIGN “Green Bank: stop funding big biomass!” GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

A number of people have written to the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) expressing concern about the role of the Green Investment Bank in financing the Drax biomass conversion project.

The Government fully recognises that an unsustainable approach to generating power from biomass would not achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and risks negative impacts on the environment. That is why it is essential our approach ensures the benefits of bio-energy are secured in a way that meets rigorous sustainability requirements. Drax will use sustainable sources of biomass that meet Government’s sustainability criteria as overseen by Ofgem.

The issues and our approach to this matter are explored fully in the Government’s 2012 Bioenergy strategy published in February 2012 and the related reports – all of which can be found on the DECC pages of the Government’s website.

The UK Green Investment Bank (GIB) has a clear mandate from Government to focus its activity on its agreed priority sectors: waste management, energy from waste, non domestic energy efficiency, offshore wind power and the Green Deal. Over the course of its initial period of operation to 2015, 80% of the funds committed by the Bank will be in those priority sectors while 20% will be in other sectors within its approved remit – including the biomass power sector.

Government believes that the GIB has a key part to play in delivering the UK’s environmental objectives, helping to mobilise the additional private investment in green infrastructure necessary to achieve the transition to a more green economy. Government hopes Biofuelwatch and their campaign supporters will give the GIB their support in fulfilling this important role.