

## **Campaigners demand 'pre-qualified' biomass and incineration projects be rejected from UK Guarantee Scheme**

**-Media advisory embargoed until Wednesday 18 December-**

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### **Photo opportunity.**

**On Wednesday 18 December at 2pm campaigners from Biofuelwatch<sup>1</sup>, Friends of the Earth, UKWIN (UK Without Incineration Network)<sup>2</sup> and the Campaign against Climate Change<sup>3</sup> will deliver a joint letter<sup>4</sup> to HM Treasury, at Unit 1, Horse Guards Rd, London SW1A 2HQ, calling for biomass to electricity and incineration projects to be rejected from the 'pre-qualified' shortlist<sup>5</sup> for loan guarantees under the UK Guarantee Scheme.**

**They will also demand that the Treasury only support genuinely sustainable and low carbon renewables projects.**

The preferential support given to certain projects contravenes Article 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. FOE has filed a complaint with the European Commission.

In supporting these projects the Treasury is investing in increasing emissions and pollution, and destroying sensitive ecosystems. This contravenes articles its own National Infrastructure Plan 2011<sup>6</sup> for example:

<sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> achieving a secure, diverse and reliable energy supply for the UK while *reducing the carbon intensity of electricity generation* at least cost to consumers

The UK Guarantee Scheme plans to support 3 big import-dependent biomass electricity projects as well as numerous waste gasification-incineration projects. These include the partial or full conversion of Eggborough Power Station to biomass which would require pellets from up to 15.8 million green tonnes of wood to be burned every year; a 100 MW electricity-only biomass power station in Avonmouth consuming up to 1m tonnes of imported wood and a 60 MW biomass and waste power station at Tilbury which will burn up to 300,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Waste and Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) and up to 350,000 tonnes of virgin and waste wood a year. The Scheme will also support an unspecified number of MSW and C&I waste gasification-type incinerators.

Duncan Law of Biofuelwatch said: "*This is a criminal misuse of public money to subsidise more burning when the same amount spent on demand reduction would save expensive infrastructure, carbon and money on people's bills – permanently! The government is investing in more climate emissions, pollution, deforestation and land-grabs.*"

Kenneth Richter of Friends of the Earth said: "*Far from being a green form of energy the burning of trees for electricity can result in even higher climate emissions than fossil fuels and poses a threat to the world's forests. Keeping dirty, outdated coal-fired power stations alive by now adding trees in the furnace is the worst possible outcome for the environment.*"

Shlomo Downen of UKWIN said: "*Contrary to the greenwash, incineration results in the release of climate change gasses as well as other harmful emissions. We cannot burn our way out of climate change. We should be looking to prevent waste, to reuse, recycle and compost discarded material, and to create a truly circular zero waste economy*".

## Notes

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- 1 <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/>
- 2 <http://ukwin.org.uk/>
- 3 <http://www.campaigncc.org/>
- 4 <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Capital-Guarantee-Scheme-joint-letter.pdf>
- 5 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-projects-pass-first-hurdle-to-secure-government-guarantee-for-infrastructure>
- 6 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/188337/nip\\_2011.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/188337/nip_2011.pdf)