

SGHN. Position paper

Thermal biomass power plants

Following the recommendations given by the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (15/09/2011):

- The regulations and goals of EU policies must be reviewed to promote the use of bioenergy only from additional biomass that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, without displacing other ecosystem services, such as the food supply and the production of grain.
- The standards for GHG accounting must fully reflect all the changes in the amounts of carbon stored in ecosystems and carbon inputs and outputs in ecosystems that result from the production and use of bioenergy.
- Bioenergy policies must promote the production of energy from biomass by-products, waste and residues (unless they are needed to maintain soil fertility). Bioenergy policies also must promote integrated biomass production that is added to food production and does not replace it.
- Globally, decision-making centres and interested parties should adjust global expectations on the use of bioenergy to levels based on the Earth's capacity to generate additional biomass without jeopardising natural ecosystems.

SGHN considers that every project of energy harnessing in thermal biomass power plants must make a rigorous analysis of their sustainability beforehand in terms of:

- Real reduction in fossil fuel consumption (favourable balance of tonnes of oil equivalent (toe) generated versus consumed).
- Real reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) release, that is, they should have a favourable balance of immissions-emissions of GHG, not only of CO₂.
- Positive or neutral effect on biodiversity, natural spaces and socio-economic aspects.

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