

# Bio-energy and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges – a UK perspective

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# Overview of presentation

- Background on UK bio-energy policy measures
- UK position on bio-energy sustainability
- Thoughts on how GBEP can support sustainable development of bio-energy internationally

# Current bio-energy policies

- UK Biomass Strategy (2007)
- Part of UK Climate Change Programme
- Contains a wide range of measures to:
  - Expand efficient deployment of sustainable bio-energy, especially heat, and
  - Support technological development.

# Summary of main bio-energy policy measures

- Energy Crops Scheme – supports establishment of perennial energy crops
- Capital grants for bio-energy projects – e.g. biomass boilers, supply chain development
- EU energy aid – for bio-energy feed stocks
- Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

# UK Environmental Transformation Fund

- Announced on 21 February 2008
- £ 1.2 billion over next three years (c. US\$2.2b)
- £400 million for UK – to accelerate commercialisation of energy efficient technology, including for bio-energy
- £800 million international element

# EU policies

- EU framework directive on renewable energy – proposes renewable energy across EU by 2020
- UK share – 15% proposed
- Proposes 10% biofuel target for each Member State (within the overall target)
- Biofuels must satisfy sustainability criteria to count towards the target

# UK position on bio-energy sustainability

- Bio-energy an important form of renewable energy
- Can make a valuable contribution to climate change mitigation, energy security and economic development especially for developing countries
- But it **must be sustainable** in order to avoid negative effects

# Biofuel sustainability

“I take extremely seriously concerns about the impact of biofuels on deforestation, precious habitats and on food security, and the UK is working to ensure that European sustainability standards are introduced as soon as possible. And we will not support an increase in biofuels over current target levels until an effective standard is in place”

Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the UK, 19 November 2007

# Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO)

- The main support measure for biofuels in UK
- Objective – to encourage an expansion in biofuels which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are sustainable
- Up to 5% of transport fuels by 2010/11.

# RTFO continued

- Starts in April 2008
- Includes sustainability standards – and is a meta standard
- Carbon and sustainability reporting required
- Performance information will be published
- Administered by Renewable Fuels Agency

## How can GBEP support international action? – Some practical ideas

- Help co-ordinate international sustainability efforts
- Lead a policy debate on the question of sustainability standards & certification
- Facilitate information sharing between initiatives
- Encourage and facilitate collaborative working
- Co-ordinate international research and pilot projects on bio-energy – establish mechanisms for this
- Influence decisions of international funding institutions

# Crucially!!!

- Developing countries are a major part of the solution
- The must be engaged and involved in the initiatives and mechanisms put in place to resolve the sustainability question

# Contact and useful websites

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[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) (DEFRA)

[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk) (Dept. for Transport)

[www.dft.gov.uk/rfa](http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa) (Renewable Fuels Agency)

[www.berr.gov.uk](http://www.berr.gov.uk) (Dept. for Business, Energy & Regulation)

[www.globalbioenergy.com](http://www.globalbioenergy.com) (GBEP)