

# Nothing Neutral Here

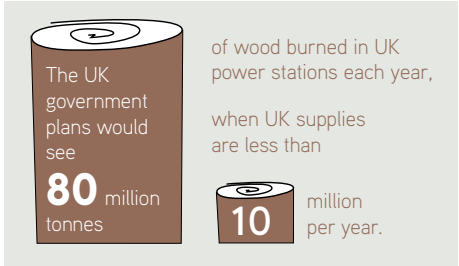
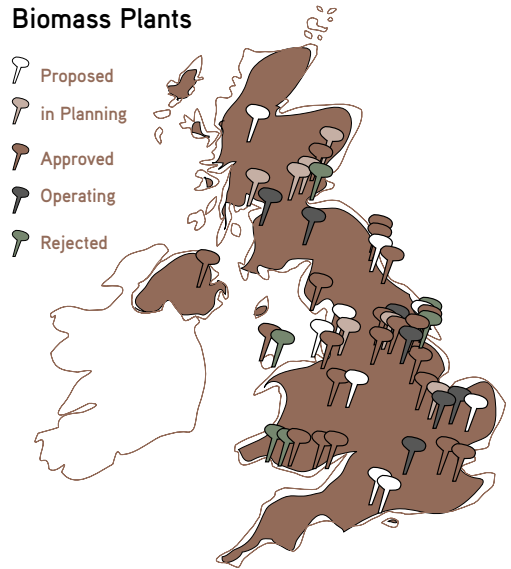
This British biomass boom is set to benefit polluters and cause widespread environmental destruction through land grabs and deforestation.

**download the report**  
<http://www.carbontradewatch.org/NothingNeutralHere>

The UK government is subsidising the generation of biomass energy despite the fact that this will promote high carbon emissions, land degradation and cause deforestation. It is estimated that around 80 million tonnes of wood is expected to be burned in UK power stations each year. Without overall reductions in energy use, much of the biomass required would be imported from outside the UK.

These subsidies are justified on the premise that energy generated by burning biomass causes no emissions: a myth caused by creative accounting and adopted by the failed EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). This means that the EU ETS fails to take into account all of the pollution and other negative impacts of biomass energy and actually encourages and subsidizes polluting industries to invest in large-scale biomass. It also subsidizes polluting industries by giving them free permits to pollute.

## Biomass Plants



EU ETS is a "cost effective way to reduce emissions and spread low carbon technology across the globe." **E.ON**

biomass is carbon neutral when burnt and using it "as fuel is therefore a valuable contribution to climate protection." **RWE npower**

the "definition of biomass as carbon-neutral is very important" **Drax**

Companies investing in biomass energy on the premise that it is 'carbon neutral' avoid reporting emissions and misleadingly market themselves as producers of clean and green energy.

there is no shortage of sustainably-sourced biomass in the world.

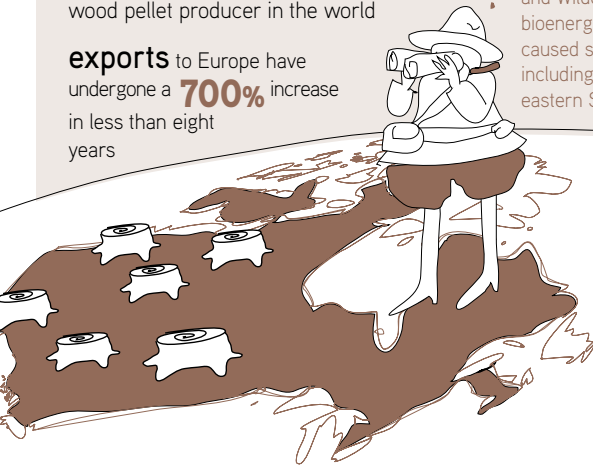
**Canada** is the second largest wood pellet producer in the world

exports to Europe have undergone a **700%** increase in less than eight years

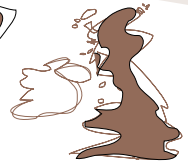
According to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, wood for bioenergy from Canada has already caused severe harm to ecosystems, including clear-cutting in north-eastern Saskatchewan.



Spokesperson for Dept. of Energy and Climate Change



The UK was the **third largest importer of illegal timber** in 2007.



Large-scale plantations are a key cause of **land grabs** in the Global South.

While opinions differ, according to a wide range of analysts, emissions from biomass can be on a par with fossil fuels, depending on the origin of the biomass used and the way in which energy is produced from the biomass. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, 'smokestack' carbon dioxide emissions from biomass are estimated to be on average 50% higher than those of coal.

US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that CO2 'smokestack' emissions can be

Scientists, including those from the EU's European Environment Agency (EEA), have also shown that bioenergy can substantially increase the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, just like burning coal, oil and gas if harvesting takes place on an industrial scale.

**50% higher**  
than coal.

The UK government should end all subsidies for bioenergy. Public money could be redirected towards reducing energy consumption, appropriate solar and wind energy projects, as well as community-based initiatives for sustainable farming and forestry.

### UK biomass campaign websites

Biofuelwatch:  
[www.biofuelwatch.org.uk](http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk)

Bioenergy Action Network:  
[www.bioenergyaction.com](http://www.bioenergyaction.com)

Breathe Clean Air Group:  
[www.breathecleanairgroup.co.uk](http://www.breathecleanairgroup.co.uk)

No Southampton Biomass:  
[www.nosouthamptonbiomass.co.uk](http://www.nosouthamptonbiomass.co.uk)

No Leith Biomass:  
[www.noleithbiomass.org.uk](http://www.noleithbiomass.org.uk)



[www.carbontradewatch.org](http://www.carbontradewatch.org)