

Views of the Irish Bioenergy Industry on Targets, Barriers, Pitfalls and Solutions (VOBI)

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Introduction & Background

- Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA) initiative supported by Sustainable Energy Ireland
- Tipperary Energy Agency Ltd (www.tea.ie) contracted to complete the research
- Project managed by Clifford Guest (IrBEA Management Committee Member/Tipperary Institute Member of Staff)
- Launched January 2006



Aim

- To conduct a focused “bottom-up” research study into the bioenergy industry’s view of the barriers to further development of the sector and proposed solutions to these barriers.



Timetable and Methodology

- Project ran from May 05 to Dec 05
- Identification of 164 stakeholders, 143 interviews completed
- Interviews completed by telephone survey
- Structured format with 4 sections
 - Profile and contact details
 - Targets and potential for the bioenergy sector
 - Barriers to the development of the sector
 - Identification of specific project pitfalls.



Consultation, Targets & Potential

- Respondents asked about their knowledge of Government consultation process on bioenergy
- Respondents asked to review targets document (prepared for project) and score their opinions of Suitability and Achievability between 1 and 10
- General comments also recorded



Consultation, Targets & Potential

- Knowledge of the Government Consultation Process in December 2003
 - 56% of people had knowledge of process
 - 7% read the documentation
 - 4% made submission
- Indicates a lack of involvement in policy development



General Comments

- *“the figures are not worth the paper they are written on without policies or supports”*
 - e.g Energy Crops for CHP: 400MWe installed by 2020 from a zero base – no supports to achieve this
- Resource will not be a barrier to the development of the sector
 - This was a very common comment across the entire sector.



Barriers and Solutions

- Respondents asked to present four key barriers and propose solutions
- Barriers were grouped into Categories
- Analysis by
 - Category
 - Technology
 - Solution
 - Overall
- Over 500 Barriers recorded
 - average of 3.5 / respondent

Top 10 Barriers

Category	Barrier
Info and Awareness	Lack of info and awareness at all levels
Financial	Too much financial risk because of unclear policy
Market Development	Fuel Supply Chain lacking
Policy	Lack of clear long term policy and implementation
Market Supports	Limited grants or supports for projects
Market Development	Capital cost of equipment
Market Development	Lack of markets - chicken and egg
Grid/PPAs	Grid connection availability
Market Supports	Comprehensive support packages from fuel to end use lacking
Grid/PPAs	Grid connection costs

Solutions – Top 5 by Occurrence

Category	Barrier	Solution
Market Development	Capital cost of equipment	Grant support scheme required for each technology - probably 5 years in length
Financial	Too much financial risk because of unclear policy	10-15 Year Policy plan required with clear goals - strong policy will provide market certainty
Info and Awareness	Lack of info and awareness at all levels	Co-coordinated Information campaign with SEI/REIO/LEAs/RA etc. LEAs to be supported more. Perhaps a central independent Bioenergy Agency is needed
Standards and Quality Control	Standards needed and quality control measures	Promote EU Norms. Industry watchdog needed
Market Development	Lack of markets - chicken and egg	Demonstrations needed and public sector should be used e.g. buildings, transport etc. But this should be directly supported not just an aspiration. Also need to develop co-firing



Projects and Project Pitfalls

- Respondents were asked to provide details on projects that they were involved in
 - General data on type, scale and status
 - Information pitfalls which they experienced/are experiencing in developing the project(s)

Projects by Technology and Status

Sector	Total	Feasibility	Under Development	Stalled	Operational	Other
Wood Heating	31	3	20	1	5	2
Liquid Biofuels	21	2	12	3	4	
AD	19	3	9	3	4	
Wood CHP	5	1		3	1	
LFG	3	1		1	1	
Other	2		2			
SRC	7		1		6	
Total	88	10	44	11	21	2

Pitfalls by Sector

Sector	Financial	Technical	Policy	Planning & Dev	Other
Wood Heating	11	8	3	4	1
Liquid Biofuels	8	5	5	2	1
AD	7	6	4	3	1
Wood CHP	1	2	1	1	0
LFG	1	1	0	1	0
Other	0	2	0	0	0
SRC	0	4	1	1	0
Total	28	28	14	12	3
% of Total	33%	33%	16%	14%	4%

Report Conclusions and Recommendations

- Main Barriers related to Information, Market Uncertainty, Lack of Policy, Limited Grant Support.
- The Government Departments should produce a joint policy document outlining how the potential which has been projected will be achieved.

Report Conclusions and Recommendations

- The Public Sector was seen as presenting significant opportunities for demonstration for the bioenergy sector for wood heating, CHP and Liquid Biofuels.
- Further work required on Case Studies/Good Practice Guidelines of successful and unsuccessful bioenergy projects to highlight project successes, pitfalls and problem areas.
- Consideration to be given to the establishment of a National Bioenergy Support Agency/Centre

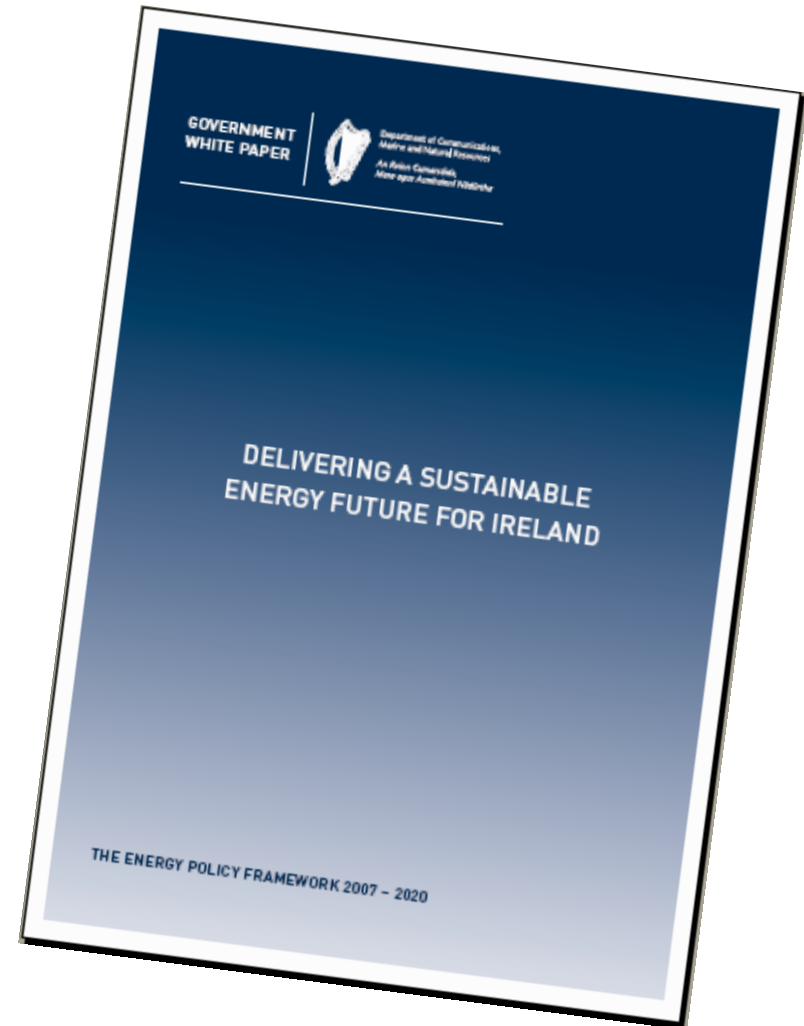


2007 Update

- Energy White Paper 2007
- Bioenergy Action Plan for Ireland 2007
- Greener Homes Scheme I&II
- Biofuels Exise Relief Scheme II
- Commercial Scale Biomass Boiler Grant Scheme

Energy White Paper 2007

- Key Targets for 2020
 - 20% savings in energy
 - 12% thermal energy from RE sources
 - 33% electricity consumption from RE sources
 - 10% transport energy requirements from RE sources



Bioenergy Action Plan for Ireland, 2007



Bioenergy Action Plan for Ireland, 2007

- Biofuel target of 10% for road transport fuel for 2020;
- 12% renewable share in the heating sector for 2020;
- Expand the commercial Bioheat Scheme;
- Increase support for research projects across the bioenergy sector;
- Introduce an energy crop “top up” payment
- Establishment grants to plant new energy crops such as miscanthus and willow;
- Dedicated wood biomass harvesting machinery grant
- Biofuel at up to 5% blends in Local Authority fleets;
- Install bioenergy heating systems in public buildings as the standard norm.

Thank You for Your Attention

Acknowledgement:

Presentation adapted from final report presentation prepared by the Tipperary Energy Agency and delivered at the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Bioenergy Association, 2006.

