

PRESENTATION GIJS BREUKINK (WWF) AT FSC GA SIDE EVENT ON BIO-ENERGY

WWF Forest-Bioenergy Position

WWF works across the conservation and sustainability fields. We work on conserving wildlife, forests, oceans and freshwater systems and also on addressing major threats to those systems like climate change and food production.

Thus we are quite used to analyzing the complexity within those systems and also understanding the trade-offs between those systems. We advance a multitude of forest conservation efforts to contribute to climate mitigation and engage in international policy arenas on these topics as well – which brings us to the forest bioenergy issue.

When considering pathways to a less than 2 degree future, we also consider how to do that with limited land use and biodiversity impacts, putting all of those things together - **we see a relatively narrow niche for the application of forest-derived biomass energy at the industrial scale – and I say that to differentiate from subsistence heating & cooling.**

WWF promotes the use of renewable energy sources – solar, wind and geothermal – as our desired sources of energy for any sector where these technologies are viable - this includes electricity production.

For sectors where there are not viable alternatives, like industrial process needs or aviation, we are open to forest biomass use as a transition technology, provided it deliver both a climate benefit and does not significantly impact biodiversity.

WWF understands the regional differences of ecosystem conditions, feedstock availability and management practices. Given these considerations, **we consider biomass feedstocks from municipal and industrial process wastes streams as low risk.**

We consider forest harvest residues higher risk – and we only support the use of these feedstocks with two qualifications:

1. **Full life cycle carbon accounting**, including cradle to combustion accounting, land use change, five carbon pools (aboveground, belowground, soils at the least), carbon debt on a climate-relevant time scale has been done (GWPbio characterization factors – Cherubini and Holtsmark both have developed methods for this) and that accounting reflects a climate benefit, and
2. Forest Stewardship Council certification (or equivalent) has been utilized to **maintain biodiversity and other forest values** in the providing forests, consistent with our guidance on pulp and timber extraction.

The use of stemwood or stumps is not supported due to the lack of climate benefit and significant impacts to biodiversity.

Additional Resources

Forests & energy

Chapter: http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/deforestation/forest_publications_news_and_reports/living_forests_report/

RSB GHG Calculator: <https://rsb.org/services-products/ghg-calculator/>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/projects/evaluating-conservation-impacts-of-fsc-certification>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/blogs/on-balance/posts/eyes-wide-open-on-bioenergy>

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