Driving the renewables industry with new technology developments and investment in Research and Development

Hannah Evans, Bioenergy Strategy Manager
What is the ETI?

• The ETI is a public-private partnership between global energy and engineering companies and the UK Government

• The UK faces increasing energy demands and stringent GHG emission targets out to 2050 (> 500 MtCO₂e to 105 MtCO₂e)

• This will require significant change to our energy system

• The ETI was set up to identify and accelerate the development and demonstration (and de-risking) of an integrated set of low carbon technologies to deliver this step change
We commission three types of projects:

**Knowledge Building Projects**
- Typically ....
- up to £5m, Up to 2 years

**Technology Development projects**
- Typically ....
- £5-15m, 2-4 years
- TRL 3-5

**Technology Demonstration projects**
- Large projects delivered primarily by large companies, system integration focus
- Typically ....
- £15-30m+, 3-5 years
- TRL 5-6+
ETI’s ‘ESME’ model indicates an important role for bioenergy in the UK

A national energy system design tool with sufficient spatial and temporal detail to understand system engineering challenges.

Negative emissions from bioenergy with CCS offset the need for expensive interventions elsewhere in the energy system.

Chart data from case v41

Bio credits “negative emissions”
ETI’s ‘ESME’ model indicates an important role for bioenergy in the UK

A national energy system design tool with sufficient spatial and temporal detail to understand system engineering challenges.

**Additional cost of delivering 2050 -80% CO₂ energy system**
NPV £ bn 2010-2050

- It is likely to be very hard to deliver an **affordable** low carbon energy system without Bioenergy or CCS
- Without both, it becomes very hard to meet our 2050 GHG targets

Chart data from case dc14
The importance of bioenergy is also recognised by others

“Sustainable bioenergy can play an important role. ...Bioenergy should be allocated to options where it has the largest impact on reducing emissions.”

“It is widely recognised that bioenergy has an important role to play if the UK is to meet its low carbon objectives by 2050.”

“Bioenergy has a significant mitigation potential, but there are issues to consider, such as the sustainability of practices and the efficiency of bioenergy systems”
ETI Bioenergy Programme – key questions

How much negative emissions could be realised through bioenergy deployment in the UK?

What would be the best ways to use this bioenergy in the future UK energy system?

What are the right combinations of feedstock, pre-processing, and conversion technologies?

Enabling policy, regulatory and market frameworks. Understanding public perception
ETI Bioenergy Programme – key questions

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How much negative emissions could be realised through UK bioenergy deployment?

- Understanding the impact of whole chain emissions on delivering negative emissions – focusing on land use change emissions as a key area of uncertainty
- Bioenergy with CCS – apprising technology options and identifying and de-risking the barriers to deployment
Ecosystem and Land Use Modelling and Soil GHG Flux Trial (ELUM) Project

“What are the dLUC emissions associated with growing bioenergy crops in the UK? Can they be predicted, and if so, what is best to grow and where?”

Note: harvested material was not measured in ELUM specifically.
Soil carbon stock change has to be viewed in the context of whole chain emissions.
Bioenergy value chains can deliver genuine carbon savings

- dLUC emissions can be material, but are of second order importance in chains with CCS
- In grassland transitions, SOC change is somewhat offset by increased above ground biomass
- Existing sustainability criteria prevent the most damaging land use transitions
Significant advances have been made in de-risking BECCS deployment

- BECCS is critical to deploy in order for the UK to meet its 2050 emissions target cost effectively
- The evidence base suggests that BECCS value chains can deliver genuine sizeable negative emissions
- Over the last 10 years further advances have been made in:
  - The costs, efficiencies and challenges of biomass-fed combustion with carbon capture
  - Understanding the potential availability and sustainability of feedstocks relevant to the UK
  - Identifying and assessing high capacity, low cost, low risk stores for CO₂ around the UK and the infrastructure required to connect them
- The UK is well-placed to exploit the benefits of BECCS, given the vast storage opportunities offshore, our experience in bioenergy deployments and our strength in bioenergy and CCS research and development
UK Storage Appraisal Project UKSAP (CO₂ Stored)

- Produced the UK’s first CO₂ storage appraisal database
- Allows for more informed decisions on the economics of storage opportunities
- Licensed to The Crown Estate and the British Geological Survey (BGS) and publically available under the brand of CO₂ Stored

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Measurement, Modelling and Verification of CO$_2$ Storage

- £1m collaboration project to develop a marine monitoring system for underwater CCS sites
- Monitoring system will use marine robotics to provide assurance CCS sites are secure
- Project delivered by a consortium from academia and industry

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What would be the best way to use bioenergy in the future UK energy system?

- ESME – Analyses the role for bioenergy in the wider energy system under different scenarios. Explores how much more it would cost to meet the 2050 targets without bioenergy.

- BVCM (Bioenergy Value Chain Model) – A more detailed model for whole system biomass value chain analysis and optimisation.
The Bioenergy Value Chain Modelling (BVCM) Project

Problem definition: What is the most effective way of delivering a particular bioenergy outcome in the UK, taking into account the available biomass resources, the geography of the UK, time, technology options and logistics networks?

Project commissioned: Development of a comprehensive and flexible toolkit for whole system biomass value chain analysis and optimisation

- Pathways optimised based on: minimum cost, minimum GHG emissions, maximum energy, maximum profit or a combination
- 93 ‘Resources’ and 69 distinct ‘Technologies’ at different scales and with multiple feedstocks. Includes UK production factors (land constraints; yields); imports; logistics

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BVCM enables the bioenergy sector to be modelled under different conditions
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Key insights from modelling the bioenergy sector under different scenarios out to 2050:

- Gasification technology is a key bioenergy enabler and resilient to a number of different scenarios
- Planting around 1.4 Mha of second generation bioenergy crops would make a significant contribution to the sector
- Deployment of BECCS makes a significant difference to the bioenergy sector:
  - With CCS, BECCS technologies dominate, clustered around key coastal hubs
  - Without CCS, more heat and biomethane are produced and the sector is more spatially distributed
What are the right combinations of technologies?

- The sector will need a combination of feedstocks – wastes, UK-grown and imported biomass
- Waste Gasification with gas clean up – a technology with significant potential but not yet commercially proven
- Pre-processing technologies – when does it ‘pay’ to pre-process biomass? ETI funding demonstrator to assess the impact of water washing on waste wood feedstock quality
ETI analysis highlights gasification as a prominent, scenario resilient technology

- Energy from Waste project (2011-12) looked at waste arisings in the UK and the existing and developing technologies that could be best placed to generate energy from residual waste.

- Highlighted small scale (town) waste gasification with syngas clean up as a potentially important technology with near term deployment opportunities.
ETI has commissioned a 1.5MWe demonstrator

- Competition to design the most efficient, economical and commercially viable gasification demonstrator plant
- Advanced Plasma Power, Broadcrown and Royal Dahlman selected for the competition. Each design capable of providing a step change in efficiency compared to existing gasification projects in the UK
- Each of the plant designs will need to demonstrate ability to operate at a net electrical efficiency of at least 25% at 5-20MW scale
- ETI today announced a 1.5MWe demonstration project with Syntech, to be built in Wednesbury
A techno-economic assessment of pre-processing indicates potential value in water washing of biomass

- ETI have commissioned a £2.2m Feedstock Improvement project which will be led by biomass specialists Forest Fuels

- Uniper Technologies, University of Sheffield’s PACT Facilities and the University of Leeds will also work on the 18 month project

- A prototype plant which will pre-treat different forms of biomass to remove impurities using water-washing will be built at Widmerpool, Nottinghamshire

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Summary

- ETI was established to identify and accelerate the development and demonstration (and de-risking) of an integrated set of low carbon technologies to deliver this step change.

- ‘Whole systems’ analysis by the ETI and others enables us to identify those sectors and technologies which are key in delivering a cost-effective, low-carbon energy system.

- Analysis by the ETI and others indicates that Bioenergy, particularly in combination with CCS, is key to reaching our 2050 targets cost-effectively.

- The ETI’s Bioenergy and CCS Programmes have focused on filling key knowledge gaps (such as direct land use change emissions and CO₂ storage opportunities) and identifying and accelerating key technologies (such as gasification).

- ‘Knowledge building’ projects have improved confidence in the sector to deliver genuine GHG emissions savings.

- Demonstration projects require identifying technologies which are important in meeting our 2050 targets, for which there are commercial opportunities in the near future.
Thank you for listening – any questions?

- ETI Publications: http://www.eti.co.uk/library
- ETI ‘Knowledge Zone’ – outputs from ETI funded projects: http://www.eti.co.uk/programmes
ANNEX – BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Links

ETI Overview Booklet: http://www.eti.co.uk/library/eti-briefing-booklet

ETI publications library: http://www.eti.co.uk/library

ELUM website: http://www.elum.ac.uk/


CCC, Bioenergy Review: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/bioenergy-review/


Ofgem, Environmental Programmes: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes


Bioenergy Crops in the UK - 2015

Defra (2016). Includes all food crops used in transport fuel production and anaerobic digestion, plus second generation crops (Miscanthus and SRC Willow). Excludes forestry.
Renewable Energy Policy Incentives

Electricity

- 1990-99 (end 2019): NFFO
- 2002- March 2017/8 (end 2037): RO
- 2001 – 1st August 2015: LECs
- 2010 - present FiT
- 2014 - present CfD
- 2011 – 2021 Non-domestic RHI
- 2014 – 2021 Dom-RHI
- 2008 – present: RTFO

Heat and Gas

- 2011 – 2021 Non-domestic RHI
- 2014 – 2021 Dom-RHI

Transport fuels
Bioenergy – the current picture

- Bioenergy feedstocks (biomass and waste) accounted for 73% of renewable fuel used in 2015
- Only renewable energy source used to produce electricity, heat and biofuels
- Bioenergy is currently supported under the Renewables Obligation (RO) and Contracts for Difference (CfD) (Electricity), the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO)

(DUKES, 2016). Table 6.1. Figures represent Total Supply (used for energy) in TWh
Current bioenergy feedstocks are a mixture of biomass and waste

- The mix of feedstocks for bioenergy is changing
- UK and imported biomass are main growth areas
- Waste feedstocks are becoming less dominant
- In 2015, 74% of bioenergy feedstocks were sourced in the UK
- The use of imported biomass has grown rapidly in recent years – in large part driven by demand from biomass power stations (e.g. Drax)

(DUKES, 2016). Table 6.1.
Renewable Electricity, 2015
