



Public Perceptions of Bioenergy in the UK

Appendix – 2017 Survey Questionnaire

All questions in the 2017 survey were also asked as part of the broader 2016 survey. Questions which also formed part of the 2015 survey are marked with an *. Any other difference between the questions asked in 2015 compared to 2016/17 are noted in the footnotes.

The full 2015 and 2016 survey questionnaires are available to download here:

<http://www.eti.co.uk/insights/public-perceptions-of-bioenergy-in-the-uk>

1. Taking into account all the different priorities the UK Government has...

Do you think the UK Government should do more or less to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the UK, or are they currently doing enough?

- The UK Government should do **more** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- The UK Government is currently doing enough to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- The UK Government should do **less** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Don't know

2. *For the following questions, by 'the UK', we mean the UK public as well as the UK Government.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The UK should be trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

3. *As a reminder, by 'the UK', we mean the UK public as well as the UK Government.

The UK has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

Which ONE, if any, of the following do you think is the MAIN reason for this?

- To tackle global climate change
- To improve air quality in the UK
- To reduce the UK's reliance on fossil fuels (e.g. coal, oil, gas etc.)

- To improve the security of the UK's energy supply (i.e. so that the UK has enough energy for the long-term)
 - To reduce energy bills
 - Other (free text)
 - Don't know
4. ***Before taking this survey, had you ever heard of bioenergy? (Please select the option that best applies)¹**
- No - I had never heard of bioenergy
 - Yes - I had heard of it, but I know nothing about it
 - Yes - I had heard of it, and I know a little about it
 - Yes - I had heard of it, and I know a fair amount about it
 - Yes - I had heard of it, and I know a great deal about it
5. ***Which, if any, of the following do you think bioenergy is directly produced from? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)**
- Agricultural waste
 - The sun (i.e. sunlight)
 - Household/ commercial/ food waste
 - Crops
 - Waste cooking oils
 - Forestry
 - Algae
 - Coal
 - Other (free text)
 - Don't know
6. ***And which, if any, of the following do you think bioenergy can take the form of? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)**
- Transport fuels
 - Electricity
 - Heat
 - Gas
 - Industrial chemicals
 - Household insulation
 - Food
 - Other (free text)
 - Don't know

¹ In 2015, the same question was asked, but the response options were, "Yes, I had" and "No, I hadn't".

Thank you for answering the previous questions. Please read the following information about bioenergy before answering the following questions...

'Biomass' is any purpose-grown material (e.g. crops, forestry or algae). 'Waste' can include household, food and commercial waste, waste from agriculture or forestry, or sewage sludge. Bioenergy is the name given to the different types of energy produced from biomass or waste. Bioenergy can be in the form of electricity, heat, transport fuels (e.g. biodiesel or bioethanol) and gases such as bio-methane, which is similar to natural gas. Bioenergy can be produced on different scales, from domestic biomass boilers up to large power stations that produce electricity for more than one household. Please click forward to continue...

7. *In general, to what extent do you support or oppose the use of biomass to produce bioenergy in the UK?

- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

8. *In general, to what extent do you support or oppose the use of waste to produce bioenergy in the UK?

- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

9. In general, to what extent do you support or oppose the use of each of the following renewable energy technologies to produce energy in the UK?

- **Offshore wind energy – wind turbines installed at sea**
- **Onshore wind energy – wind turbines installed on land**
- **Solar panels installed on roofs**
- **Solar parks - panels installed in fields**
- **Marine turbines – turbines installed underwater at sea**

For each technology respondents were asked to select one of:

- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

10. *Approximately, what percentage, if any, of renewable energy currently used in the UK do you think comes from bioenergy? (Please type your answer to the nearest percentage in the box below. If you are unsure, please give your best guess.)

Respondents were able to input a figure between 0% and 100% (whole number only).

11. *Bioenergy currently meets 5% of all of the UK's total energy demand.

To what extent do you think this percentage should increase or decrease, or do you think it should stay the same?²

- Increase to more than 10%
- Increase to between 7% and 10%
- Increase to up to 7%
- Stay the same at 5%
- Decrease to between 3% and 5%
- Decrease to less than 3%
- Don't know
- Not applicable - I don't think bioenergy should be used at all

12. *As a reminder, 'biomass' is any purpose-grown material (e.g. crops, forestry or algae).

Which ONE of the following statements BEST describes where you think the UK currently sources its biomass for bioenergy? (Please select the option that BEST applies)

- The UK **imports all** of its biomass
- The UK **imports most** of its biomass but sources some domestically
- There is a **roughly equal split** between imported and domestically sourced biomass
- The UK sources **most biomass domestically** but imports some
- The UK sources **all biomass domestically**
- Don't know

13. *In general, which, if any, of the following would you say are positive features of bioenergy? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type it in the 'other' box)

- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels
- A renewable source of energy
- Can generate energy from waste
- Good for the environment
- Less polluting (i.e. it has lower greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuels)
- Reduces the cost of energy in the UK
- Creates jobs
- Can be produced in the UK (i.e. there is a secure supply)
- Other (free text)

² In 2015, a similar question was asked but the statement read, "Bioenergy currently meets 3% of all the UK's total energy demand". The response options were adjusted accordingly. Respondents could select from increases up to 5%, to between 5 and 10%, or to more than 10%, or decreases to 3%, to between 1 and 3%, or to less than 1%. Respondents could also select 'stay the same at 3%', 'Don't know', or 'Not applicable – I don't think bioenergy should be used at all'.

- Don't know
- Not applicable - I think bioenergy has no positive features

14. ***And which, if any, of the following would you say are negative features of bioenergy? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type it in the 'other' box)**

- Increases competition for land (e.g. biomass might displace food crops)
- More polluting (i.e. it has higher greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuels)
- Uses material that could be used elsewhere
- Bad for the environment
- Leads to global social inequality
- Not enough biomass is produced in the UK, so it would have to be imported
- Increases the cost of energy in the UK
- Not a renewable source of energy
- Other (free text)
- Don't know
- Not applicable - I think bioenergy has no negative features

15. ***To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?**

- **Using bioenergy can contribute towards reducing the UK's greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Using bioenergy doesn't help tackle climate change**
- **Using bioenergy is better for the environment than using fossil fuels**

For each statement respondents were asked to select one of:

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

16. ***The use of bioenergy in the UK is increasing. Some people believe that the direction and expansion of the bioenergy sector should be led by an organisation.**

Which ONE, if any, of the following do you think should be the MAIN leader of the bioenergy sector? (If your answer is not shown in the list below, please type it in the 'other' box)

- The UK Government
- Industry/ energy companies
- Academics and environmental scientists
- A biomass supplier association
- Other (free text)
- Don't know
- Not applicable - no one should lead the direction and expansion of the bioenergy sector

17. *Bioenergy installations that generate electricity or heat come in various sizes.

Which, if any, of the following bioenergy installations would you be **in favour** of being used in the UK? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)

- Domestic biomass boilers providing heat for individual houses
- Small power stations providing electricity for smaller areas
- Large power stations providing electricity for larger areas
- Biomass boilers providing heat for groups of houses (i.e. district heating in/ near households)
- Biomass boilers providing heat for large buildings (e.g. in/ near schools, offices, hospitals etc.)
- Other (free text)
- Don't know
- Not applicable - I wouldn't be in favour of any bioenergy installations being used in the UK

As a reminder, bioenergy is the name given to the different types of energy produced from biomass or waste. 'Biomass' is any purpose-grown material (e.g. crops, forestry or algae). 'Waste' can include household, food and commercial waste, waste from agriculture or forestry, or sewage sludge. Bioenergy is the name given to the different types of energy produced from biomass or waste. Bioenergy can be in the form of electricity, heat, transport fuels (e.g. biodiesel or bioethanol) and gases such as bio-methane, which is similar to natural gas. Bioenergy can be produced on different scales, from domestic biomass boilers up to large power stations that produce electricity for more than one household. Please click forward to continue...

18. *For the following question, please imagine you were shown conclusive scientific evidence that proved the following statement to be correct

Bioenergy reduces greenhouse gas emissions

Based on this, would your opinion of the use of bioenergy in the UK improve or worsen, or would it stay the same?

- Improve significantly
- Improve slightly
- Stay the same
- Worsen slightly
- Worsen significantly
- Don't know

19. *Would your opinion of the use of bioenergy in the UK improve, worsen or stay the same if you were told that...³

- ...the UK imported all of its biomass from overseas
- ...the UK sourced about half of its own supply of biomass domestically

³ In 2015 the three statements were phrased differently: '...the UK has to import all of its biomass from overseas', '...the UK is able to source about half of its own supply of biomass domestically', '...the UK is able to source all of its biomass domestically'.

➤ **...the UK sourced all of its biomass domestically**

For each statement respondents were asked to select one of:

- Improve significantly
- Improve slightly
- Stay the same
- Worsen slightly
- Worsen significantly
- Don't know

20. ***Would your opinion of the use of bioenergy in the UK improve, worsen or stay the same if you were told that...**

- **not utilising bioenergy could cost the UK at least £350 billion more than the next cheapest low-carbon option between now and 2050, in order to meet it's 2050 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets**
- **organisations (such as community groups, small companies or large companies) with plans to produce bioenergy have to demonstrate technical proficiency to planning authorities for them to be able to operate a bioenergy scheme**
- **an independent organisation was set up to regulate the UK bioenergy sector to ensure good environmental practice**

For each statement respondents were asked to select one of:

- Improve significantly
- Improve slightly
- Stay the same
- Worsen slightly
- Worsen significantly
- Don't know

21. ***Please imagine you were interested in finding out more information on bioenergy...**

Which, if any, of the following would you trust to give you reliable information? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)

- A close friend and/ or relative
- A company operating in the bioenergy sector⁴
- Scientists/ academics or experts in the field
- Newspapers
- Television programmes
- Social media
- The UK Government
- Conservation/environmental interest groups
- An independent consumer or industry watchdog

⁴ In 2015, this option read, 'A large company operating in the bioenergy sector'.

- Other (free text)
- Don't know
- Not applicable - I wouldn't trust anyone to give me reliable information about bioenergy

22. *Overall, to what extent, if at all, do you trust organisations operating in the UK bioenergy sector?

- Trust a lot
- Trust a little
- Don't trust very much
- Don't trust at all
- Don't know

23. *Which, if any, of the following do you think would improve your opinion of the trustworthiness of organisations operating in the UK bioenergy sector? (Please select all that apply. If any of your answers are not shown in the list below, please type them in the 'other' box)

- If the organisation(s) had strong ties with the local community
- If the organisation(s) had directors that were held clearly and legally accountable for environmental compliance
- If the organisation(s) held regular public consultations
- If the organisation(s) were part of an accreditation scheme, ensuring good standards are met
- If the organisation(s) had to reimburse green subsidies if they failed to maintain good environmental and performance standards
- Other
- Don't know
- Not applicable - nothing would improve my opinion of the trustworthiness of organisations operating in the UK bioenergy sector