

## **BECCS Done Well: conditions for success for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage**

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In 2022 Drax commissioned Forum for the Future to carry out an independent 6-month inquiry into what conditions for 'BECCS Done Well' might look like. Forum for the future convened a High Level Panel made up of a small number of individuals with significant experience and expertise in different aspects of the BECCS value chain. The Panel agreed on a number of Expert Witnesses (reflecting views across the spectrum of opinions regarding BECCS) with whom they would engage, inviting each to contribute a written statement and/or to join a verbal discussion. Expert Witnesses included academics and representatives of key stakeholder organisations. The Inquiry looked at four critical questions:

1. What conditions would need to be complied with to ensure that the sourcing and processing of woody biomass delivers positive outcomes for nature, climate and people?
2. What conditions would need to be complied with to demonstrate that energy from woody biomass makes a positive contribution to decarbonisation, energy security, affordability and a just transition?
3. What conditions would need to be complied with to ensure that BECCS from woody biomass makes a material, ongoing contribution towards Net Zero targets?
4. What are the implications for Drax of these conditions, and for the wider biomass industry, in terms of policy and governance? How will verification work, in an authoritative and transparent way, demonstrating compliance with these conditions?

The Panel concluded that BECCS can indeed be 'done well' subject to 30 conditions they developed. Here, we present Drax's response to these conditions. While at this stage our responses are directional and based on our best available data and assumptions (we do not yet operate any BECCS plant at scale), we will seek to embed them into our processes and policies going forward. This work has already started, and we will provide more formal timelines and targets as our internal research develops. We will further develop metrics and verification processes, too. Should, through this work, our response to any of these conditions change, we will update our response accordingly providing due justification.

Recognising the need for increased dialogue, we use this presentation to address common concerns around BECCS as a carbon removal solution and outline under which conditions its scale-up meets the high bar on environmental and socio-economic sustainability that the public rightly expects. Our responses to the conditions are broadly in agreement with the recommendations of the High-Level Panel and have been shared with the Panel and its Chair, Jonathon Porritt, whose response we also summarise.

Lastly, we use this presentation to invite further scrutiny from the UKCCSRC community on our plans and ambition to be a world-leading, sustainability-driven company at the forefront of the fight against climate change by setting ambitious targets for carbon removals and holding ourselves to strict sustainability, socioeconomic and environmental standards.