

# Approaches for biomass projects: A summary fiche

## Aim and scope

**This toolkit focuses on the opportunities for cultivating and using biomass for bioenergy in coal, peat, oil and shale regions**, as part of their transformation to become climate neutral.

The toolkit is aimed at local governments and landowners in coal, peat, oil and shale regions.

## What is biomass?

Biomass refers to organic resources, including starch, oil or sugar crops, fibre or wood process residues; dedicated energy grasses or short-rotation crops; agricultural wastes and residues such as straw or manure; forest and agro-forestry residues; together with dedicated energy plantations from the forestry sector.

Bioenergy – energy generated from biomass – is used in heating, electricity, and transport fuels.

Biomass and bioenergy offer opportunities to cultivate and restore land that mining has degraded, using high-yielding crops such as hemp. They also offer an approach to retrofitting and converting former coal power stations to bioenergy production.

## The benefits of bioenergy

Where used sustainably, bioenergy can provide

- Environmental benefits, in particular the use of degraded land by mining activities
  - Land restoration and ecosystem services, with a positive greenhouse gas impact
- Social benefits, repurposing of former coal regions
  - Job opportunities

– Economic benefits via

- Repurposing of existing infrastructure
- Opportunities for local agriculture, energy security and local energy supply.



## Support for biomass and bioenergy

The [toolkit](#) covers key aspects to support regions investigating the role of bioenergy, including

- sustainable biomass production
- financial aspects
- the regulatory framework and permit procedures
- logistics aspects, such as assessment; local ownership, expertise, training needs; storage needs; supply and demand questions.

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