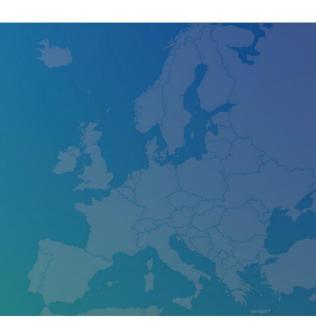


Approaches for biomass projects: A summary fiche



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 agroforestry 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 <u>toolkit</u> 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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