

# BIOMASS STUDY TASK FORCE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Aim

To assist Government and the biomass industry in optimising the contribution of biomass energy to renewable energy targets and to sustainable farming and forestry and rural economy objectives.

### Method

Identify possible measures to stimulate the development of biomass energy. Analyse the financial and broader economic costs and benefits of each recommendation.

Work with the energy, agricultural and forestry industries, potential users of biomass and other stakeholders to identify barriers in the supply chain and ways of overcoming them; this work includes direct encouragement and facilitation of co-operation within the supply chain and in Government and with relevant bodies such as RDAs.

Make recommendations to industry and public bodies.

Notes: (1) The barriers in question are the current frailty of the supply chain, technical factors, planning restrictions and environmental factors relating to land use.

(2) The primary focus of the Study is on biomass (energy crops, forestry, agricultural plant and animal wastes) for heat and electricity generation. Biofuels for transport and other non food uses of crops may be considered in so far as cross-cutting issues arise.

(3) International comparisons should be included; this is likely to require some direct contact with other countries.

(4) The Study should take account inter alia of the RCEP report on biomass and the Government response, and assist Government in taking forward further analyses and actions established by that response (expected to be available by September 2004). The Study should involve contact with the National Non-Food Crops Centre, but take into account the limited role which the NNFCC currently has in the bioenergy field. The Study should also take account of any emerging findings from the biomass workstream of the Sustainable Energy Policy Network.

(5) The Study should not make recommendations on tax issues.

### **Reporting**

The Study is commissioned by Government as a whole. The Study Team has open access to all relevant Departments and No 10 Downing Street.

The Secretariat of the Study will be located in Defra but drawing on expertise in other Departments and public and private bodies.

The work will report to Government via the Sustainable Energy Policy Network chaired by the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry and for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

### **Structure of Study Team/Task Force**

Sir Ben Gill (leader of study)

John Roberts CBE, Chief Executive United Utilities - energy industry representative

Nick Hartley, Oxera - economist with knowledge of sector and environmental economics

### **Secretariat**

Secretary to the Study Team plus support staff, based at Central Science Laboratory in York (Defra agency) and managed by Defra in London.

### **Timescale**

12 month study from October 2004

Regular progress reports including a report in March 2005

Final report to include conclusions and analysis of outcomes achieved during the Study.