

### Carbon Management and Oil and Gas Research Project Review Meeting Carbon Dioxide Removal Research

Drax Group: Biomass & BECCS

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## 1 Introduction to Drax



### Our Purpose Enabling a zero carbon, lower cost energy future

### **Our Strategy**

We will build a long-term future for sustainable biomass We will be the leading provider of power system stability We will give our customers control of their energy

### Our Ambition To be a carbon negative company by 2030



- We've transformed from the UK's largest coal-fired Power Station, into Europe's largest decarbonization project
- Drax has now slashed its CO2 emissions from power generation by over 90 percent since 2012
- We're the largest generator of renewable electricity in the UK (12%)
- We're the **third largest generator in the UK** (8.3m homes)
- Drax also operates 17 plants across the US South and Western Canada
- Our operations and supply chain **support 18,000 jobs**
- We're the world's leading bioenergy generator and supplier of sustainable biomass
- Our BECCS project could create the world's first carbon negative power station



# 2 Drax Biomass



### Biomass & BECCS Evolution at Drax

# Drax's biomass journey began with co-firing in 2003, followed by investments in the power station and throughout the supply chain

#### **Biomass evolution at Drax**



#### Key Highlights

- Drax started co-firing with biomass in 2003 with the aim of reducing carbon emissions
- UK Government Renewable Obligation Certificates scheme provided Drax incentives to reduce coal, move to biomass and drive towards full conversion
- During 2003-12, Drax was co-firing at 10% and the first fully converted plant was launched in 2013 after extensive trials
- Drax trialled a number of different types of fuels (350+), before deciding on high quality wood pellets as the optimal fuel with the best chemistry for Drax plant, mills and boiler configuration
- During full conversion of the units (2.6GW), Drax has invested to build a sustainable pellets supply chain in the U.S. and via 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers, developed ports in the UK and U.S. and in UK logistics
- Support through Contracts for Difference (CfD), and carbon price support have been critical policy success factors

Drax Group are on the journey of bioenergy evolution with BECCS and sustainable pellet cost reduction to enable a subsidy-free future post 2027 and become a carbon negative company

### The world's leading sustainable biomass generation and supply business drax



### Biomass used at Drax

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#### 80% of Drax's supply comes from North America



Drax's supply comprises a mix of sources, including wood pellets from sawmill residues



- Thinning
- Arboricultural residues

- Low grade roundwood
- Branches & tops
- Agricultural residues

### The benefits of forest biomass

#### Biomass isn't a trade-off between decarbonising our economy and protecting forests. It delivers for both.

- No evidence of deforestation: Healthy demand for wood contributes to growing forests. Forest inventory has increased by 21% since 2000 with pellet producers using less than 0.1% of total forest inventory
- Increasing rate of growth and carbon sequestration across the US South: : Managed forests absorb more carbon than forests that are left untouched. Over the last 50 years, the carbon storage in the US South has more than doubled
- A direct positive impact on our communities: We directly employ 757 colleagues in Drax's locations and support thousands of jobs across our supply chains



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### Drax supply chain GHG emissions

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A significant saving compared to fossil fuels in all supply areas



# 3 Drax Sustainability Policy



# Drax sourcing policy and practice: going beyond regulatory compliance

Drax's sustainable biomass sourcing policy is the industry gold standard and is led by science, best practice and transparency

- Drax is independently audited and its biomass complies with **stringent Ofgem and EU standards.**
- Drax's suppliers' operations are regularly audited by independent third-party bodies to certify compliance with sourcing policies, forestry standards and regulatory requirements.
- Drax's sourcing policy is in line with a recent Forest Research report which identified sourcing practices that maximise the positive carbon contribution that sustainable biomass can deliver.
- Drax doesn't use biomass that causes deforestation, forest decline or carbon debt. This is a fundamental commitment in its sustainable biomass sourcing policy.
- Drax is committed to use only sustainable biomass from areas with managed forests where the forests are growing at a greater rate than what is harvested.

### Drax responsible sourcing policy

# 1. Sustainability Policy for sourcing forest biomass.

 Deliver good outcomes for the climate, environment and communities in which we operate

### 2. We also created an Independent Advisory Board:

- A Board of scientists, civil society and leaders in the field of sustainability to provide impartial advice on sustainable biomass
- Led by former UK Government chief scientific advisor Sir John Beddington

# Responsible sourcing:

A policy for biomass from sustainable forests

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# 4 BECCS



### The need for negative emissions

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To prevent harmful climate change, reducing emissions won't be enough.

- To reach net zero we need to reduce emissions across each sector of the global economy.
- But by 2050, a significant volume of emissions will still Ο be emitted by hard-to-decarbonise sectors such as aviation, agriculture and heavy industry.
- To tackle climate change and reach net zero, we need to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in order to compensate for any residual emissions.

#### Global total net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions Billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>/yr 50 they do not reach zero globally. Methane emissions In pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot as well as in pathways with a high overshoot, CO2 emissions are reduced to net zero globally around 2050. 2020 20 Black carbon emissions 10 Four illustrative model pathways 2020 P2 Nitrous oxide emissions -10 -20 2100 Timing of net zero CO2 Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or low overshoot Line widths depict the 5-95th Pathways with high overshoot percentile and the 25-75th Pathways limiting global warming below 2°C

#### Non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions relative to 2010

Emissions of non-CO<sub>2</sub> forcers are also reduced or limited in pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot, but







percentile of scenarios (Not shown above)

Source: IPCC SR1.5 report

### Introducing BECCS

## For the UK to reach net zero by 2050 we need to deploy negative emissions technologies, and fast.

- Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) is the technology that will provide the largest share of the negative emissions needed by 2050.
- The UK's independent Climate Change Committee estimates that 57mtpa of negative emissions will be needed from greenhouse gas removal technologies by 2050, of which **19mtpa will come from BECCS in power**. However, some CCC scenarios suggest up to 39mtpa of greenhouse gas removals from BECCS power could be needed by 2050.
- Relative to other negative emissions technologies, BECCS has low costs, is scalable and commercially ready to go.

Figure A3.11.a Sources of abatement in the Balanced Net Zero Pathway for the GHG removals sector



Source: BEIS (2020) Provisional UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics 2019; CCC analysis. M&C = Manufacturing and Construction.

#### Our ambition is to use BECCS to create an 8mpta carbon negative drax power station by 2030



### **BECCS at Drax Power Station**



The site has suitable locations and ducting infrastructure for retro-fitting post combustion capture technology, due to the mothballing and impending demolition of the facilities Flue Gas Desulphurisation equipment following the conversion to Biomass

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- The BECCS AACE Class III Pre-FEED work was completed in March 2021, with the CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Technology Partner Selected in May 2021
- **BECCS** capture technology pilots at Drax Power Station
  - *C-Capture* pilot installed in January 2019, capable of capturing up to one tonne  $CO_2$  per day.
  - £5m awarded through BEIS CCUS Innovation Programme to test at Tiller in Norway in 2019 and TCM in 2020/21.
  - MHI pilot installed Autumn 2020, testing solvent technologies and capturing 300 kg/CO2 per day.
- **CCUS Incubation Zone** at Drax Power Station for pilot CCU projects (Deep Branch Bio, Econic)

- KEY
- Solvent

Carbon dioxide (CO.)

- entering an absorption tower
- 3 Inside the absorption tower, a chemical reaction takes place which extracts CO, from the flue gas. CO, depleted flue gas is released to the atmosphere
- 4 The solvent containing the CO<sub>2</sub> is heated in a re-boiler, which reverses the chemical reaction separating the CO, from the solvent
- 5 The solvent is then re-circulated back into the carbon capture system
- 6 The now pure stream of CO., is transported via pipeline for permanent storage under the southern North Sea

### Drax is the UK's most technically advanced CCS project

Two solvent pilots running at Drax since 2019, providing
 significant data on the performance of solvents with biomass flue
 gas, alongside non-proprietary solvent BECCS testing at SINTEF

Pre-FEED work completed in Q1 2021, focusing the CCS retrofit on two Drax biomass units

Development Consent process started, with non-statutory engagement commencing Q1 2021; target date for DCO submission Q1 2022 for Secretary of State approval H2 2022

First CCS project to put in place a licence agreement for a capture technology

Tendering ongoing for EPC partner, with selection due Q3
 2021

FEED study earmarked for Q3/Q4 2021, subject to further clarity from UK Government on BECCS support framework



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# 5 The next opportunity



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### BECCS potential in the US

### Expanding options and capacity for carbon removal will be critical for the US to achieve its climate objectives by 2050

- Avoiding the worst impacts of climate change will require not only steep reductions in US emissions but also the removal of CO2 at a massive scale
- WRI estimates that the US will need to remove about 2
  gigatons of CO2 every year by mid-century to reach net-zero —
  roughly 30% of U.S. 2017 greenhouse gas emissions
- BECCS could provide an estimated 180 MtCO2 per year in net carbon removal, with the possibility of significant additional carbon gains (up to 125 MtCO2 per year in the power sector) from fossil energy displacement.





### Our ambition: New Build BECCS project in the US to be fit by 2023

 We're well-advanced in the process of developing an option to build a new BECCS facility in the US.

- Whilst the design of the facility has not yet been decided, we aim to build a 300 600MW facility.
- It would generate between 2 and 4 million tonnes of carbon removal each year, through the production and storage of negative emissions.
- Representing a capital investment from Drax of around \$2
  billion USD.
- Location-wise we have identified two regions South East US and Pacific Northwest that would work best in terms of: a) the need for firm renewable power; b) fibre availability; c) geology; d) availability to build a value chain.



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### Ongoing global BECCS Technical Work

#### Key focus areas for Drax in developing the next BECCS:



Policy

Where is there existing policies towards biomass, CCS & negative emissions that enable deployment of BECCS at scale



Optimal location of facilities, placing the opportunity at the heart of fiber and fuel baskets, and direct access to CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration

# Reforestation

Grow reforestation partnerships, developing fuel options to maximize abatement whilst maintaining sustainability & forest growth



Further refine the technical preparation and business case to deliver BECCS

#### **Objectives:**

- To establish an **integrated concept design** for a new build BECCS power plant.
- To provide and validate assumptions for an integrated new build BECCS plant, specifically to identify and quantify any efficiency gains through the heat integration of the systems.
- To assess the **viability of strategic locations** for a new build BECCS plant.
- Identify the optimal sites with a focus on deployment in the US South

#### Scope:

- **Technology assessment** technology options and assessment of viability covering boiler, turbine and CCS islands
- Innovation in technology and plant integration to optimise efficiency
- **Strategy** market assessments of key geographies
- **Cost estimates** CapEx & OpEx
- **Project planning** development journey incl. planning and environmental

### Why the US?



goals, alongside existing federal and state incentives enhances the US carbon capture potential. Simple policy changes will enable deployment of BECCS at scale Access to one of the world's greatest fibre baskets, existing CO2 pipeline network and planned coal retirements by 2030 makes the US an optimal location to deploy BECCS



Well- advanced workstreams are building up the technical, commercial & financial business case to deliver a BECCS facility

An end-to-end US value chain that will deliver for the climate while creating thousands of jobs in clean technology



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