



Dear Subscriber,

Hello to everyone who's still with us post-GDPR. Apologies for such a long gap between newsletters, read on to see what we have been busy with.

In this newsletter, you will find:

1. #AxeDrax campaign updates: demos, gas proposals and geoengineering announcements.
2. Success in our campaign against UK biomass subsidies
3. Good news from Wales: dangerous waste and wood gasifier proposal stopped
4. 90 organisations call on UN aviation agency to ditch biofuel and carbon offset plans
5. Support UKWIN's Bin the Burners campaign
6. Upcoming events - come to these ones, and help us organise more

Donate to Biofuelwatch



Would you like to join our pool of volunteers who are helping to counter industry propaganda about biomass by writing letters to newspaper editors? If you are, then please please [email us](#) to find out

After several successful screenings in London and beyond, the award-winning film *Burned - Are Trees the New Coal?* is still available to be shown. If you belong to a group which might want to host a film

England.



#AxeDrax AGM demonstration, York, April 2018

1. #AxeDrax campaign update: demos, gas proposals and geoengineering announcements

Thanks to everyone who contributed to organising and turned up to our [#AxeDrax Annual General Meeting protests](#) in York and Liverpool and [Time to Twig](#) forest flashmob in London.

Gas

As you may remember, Drax Power Station, the world's largest biomass power station and UK's single largest generator of CO₂, has proposed to [replace its final two coal-burning units with a 3.6 GW gas-fired power station](#). We heard last week that the [Planning Inspectorate](#) has accepted Drax's proposal for examination.

This means that the Planning Inspectorate will shortly be commencing a three-month phase of examination, during which time members of the public can register to become “interested parties” and make representations.

This proposal would lock us into another generation of climate-wrecking fossil fuel use, as well as helping to keep Drax open and burning millions of tonnes of imported wood pellets every year, many of which come from from biodiverse

There is still time to stop this project, with work starting in late 2019 at the earliest, should the proposal be accepted at the final stage. You can read more about the planning process [here](#) and more about Drax's proposal [here](#).

In the meantime, watch this space for updates and ways to object to the proposal, starting with a draft objection letter to your MP which we will be sending out in the very near future. Drax will soon be seeking subsidies and investment for this new development. If we manage to stop this proposal from going ahead, we will have a far greater chance of getting Drax Power Station shut down for good.

Carbon Capture and Storage

Drax has also announced the start of a new project investigating [bioenergy with carbon capture and storage \(BECCS\)](#) – ie, burning trees and attempting to capture the carbon released. While Drax has made a lot of noise about this, the reality is that the technology is unproven (there is no functional BECCS plant anywhere in the world), and the best way to protect both the climate and biodiversity is to preserve the very forests that Drax is burning. The project involves a feasibility study, possibly to be followed by a small carbon capture pilot project. There are no plans to capture carbon on a larger scale from Drax power station.

For more info on BECCS, see this [Geoengineering Monitor factsheet](#).

As always, please **contact us** if you would like to get more involved in the campaign against Drax Power Station. As well as organising demos around the Annual General Meeting, there are often opportunities for other events and protests throughout the year, in Yorkshire and beyond. For more information on Drax and the campaign against it, visit axedrax.org.uk



#AxeDrax demonstration at Peel Port, Liverpool, April 2018

2. First step to success in our campaign against UK biomass subsidies

Following years of campaigning by us, the Government has announced that new biomass power stations will no longer be able to bid for subsidies unless they are combined heat and power plants with a total efficiency of 70%. This means that more power stations such as MGT Power's massive 299 MW plant being built in Teesside (to run on pellets made from southern US forests) can't be built in future – and nor can smaller biomass power stations.

However, this is only a partial success so far:

A long-term decision about subsidies for new (inefficient) coal-to-biomass conversions remains outstanding, although they won't be allowed to bid for subsidies until 2020 at the earliest.

We are concerned that developers might circumvent the new rules by classifying their plants as gasification plants, which are exempt from the efficiency requirement. A government announcement about the future definition of 'gasification' is due soon. Watch this space.

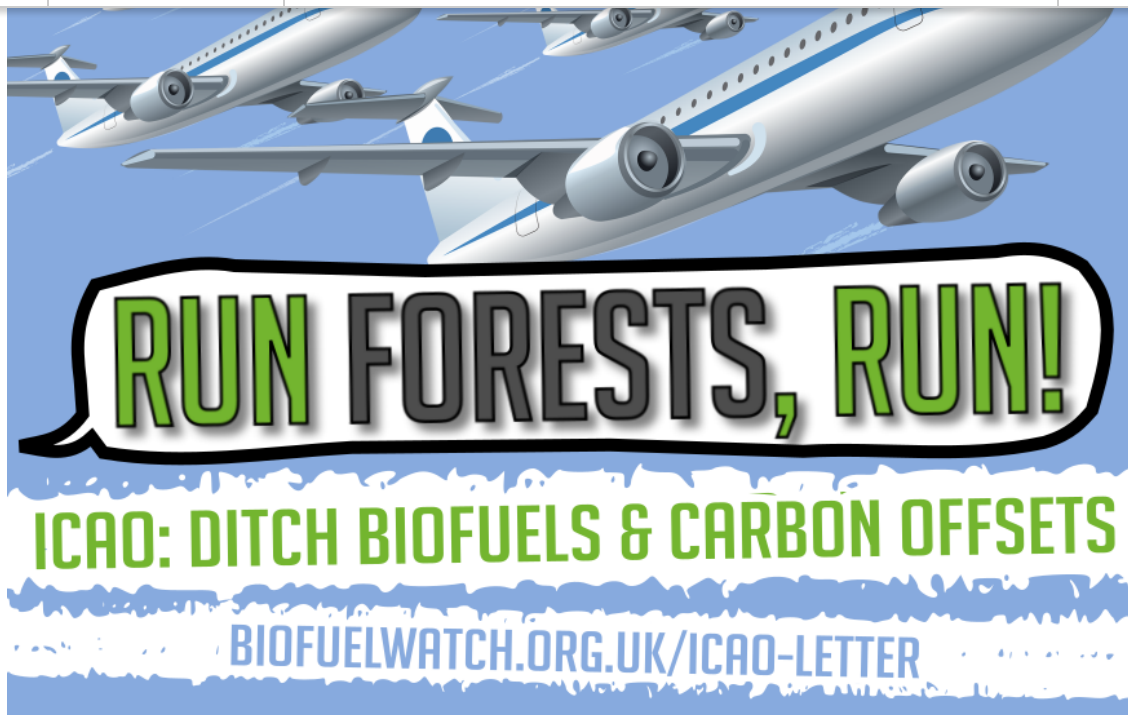


Milford Haven, where there isn't a waste and wood gasifier

3. Good news from Wales: Dangerous waste and wood gasifier plans in Milford Haven stopped

Over the past two years, we campaigned with Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth and The Environmental Network for Pembrokeshire against plans for a potentially very large waste and wood gasifier by a company called Egnedol. Egnedol submitted planning application for a 50 MW experimental gasification plant, stating that if this was approved, it would then seek permission to expand that plant seven-fold. Of all the planning proposals we had ever seen, this one was the most dangerous and reckless: Egnedol wanted to build a gasifier in flagrant breach of European safety guidelines for gasifiers, thus risking what could have been a catastrophic explosion right next to LNG infrastructure classified as top-level Control of Major Accident Hazard sites.

All of the statutory authorities refused to look at the health and safety risks to residents and workers. However, the Welsh Government – despite ignoring Health and Safety – has now refused Egnedol's planning application, under a planning procedure which does not give the company a right to appeal.



4. 90 organisations call on UN aviation agency to ditch biofuel and carbon offset plans

Last month, we submitted a [letter signed by 90 organisations](#) from 35 countries, condemning plans by the UN aviation agency ICAO to allow airlines to use biofuels and carbon offsets to declare future growth to be 'carbon neutral'.

The letter was submitted to a meeting of the ICAO Council. Although ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) is a UN organisation, it collaborates extremely closely with the aviation industry and excludes civil society groups from almost all of its discussions. ICAO is drawing up rules for a Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) which – rather than reducing actual emissions – will heavily promote the use of biofuels and carbon offsets by airlines from 2020. Since the Open Letter was submitted, the ICAO Council has decided to add 'clean' fossil fuels to the CORSIA repertoire, approving a proposal by Saudi Arabia. Airlines will now even be able to claim carbon emissions savings if they use kerosene refined with renewable energy (which could be biomass), or from newer oil wells that can be recovered with less energy than older ones.

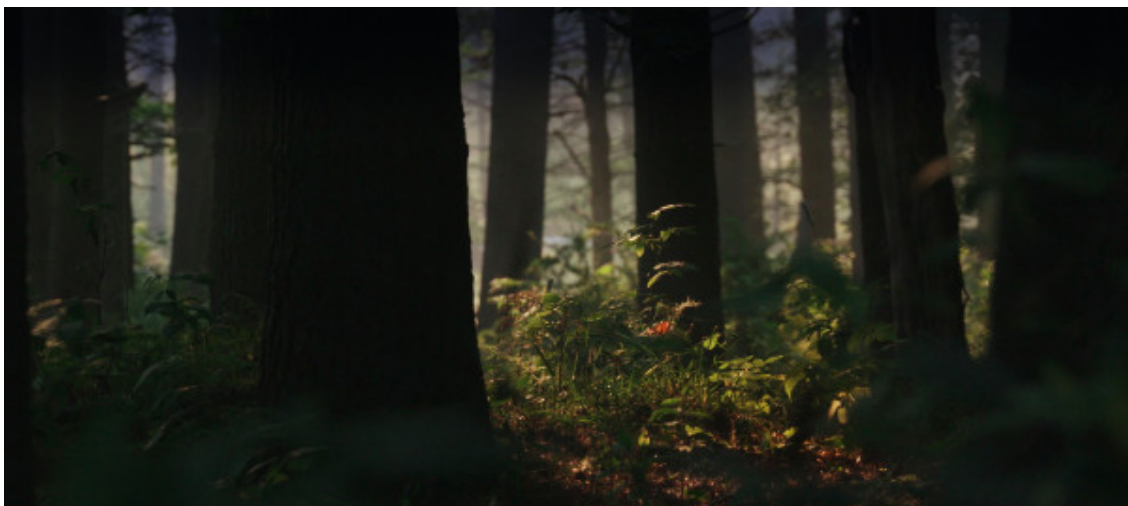
Clearly, it is now time for any country that claims to be serious about climate to consider pulling out of the CORSIA greenwashing scheme and to take urgent measures to halt and reverse aviation growth. Given its backing for a third



Removing barriers to a circular economy

5. Support UKWIN's Bin the Burners campaign for a moratorium on new waste incineration capacity in the UK

UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN) have launched the Bin the Burners campaign for a moratorium on waste incineration capacity. They are now asking people to write to their MPs to support the growing call for a tax on waste incineration, which would help recycling and comply with the 'polluter pays' principle. If you live in the UK, then please support this and go to <http://ukwin.org.uk/bin/> for more information and for a draft letter to send to your MP.



6. Upcoming events - come to these or help us organise more!

"Burned: are trees the new coal?" is an award-winning documentary by US independent film-makers Marlborough Productions telling the story of forest destruction in the southern US to make biomass wood pellets for export to feed power stations such as Drax. So far the film has been shown in London, Bristol,

and contact us if you'd like to work with us to organise a screening in your area.

Also this summer, we will be doing workshops at Boomtown festival, the [Earth First! Summer gathering](#) and TBC the Big Green Gathering and [Code Rood](#) climate action camp in Groningen, the Netherlands. Look out for us, and if you're involved in organising an event that would be enhanced by a Biofuelwatch presence please contact us.

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