

Biomass Canada Cluster Webinar:

“Role of government incentives and supporting policies in advancing the use of agricultural biomass for bioenergy production”

Wednesday, 20th October 2021, 4:30-6 pm CET/10:30-12 am EST/7:30-9:00 am PST

There are many uses for heat on farms and in other agriculture and agri-food businesses – from space heating in rural households and buildings, machinery shops, poultry and swine production, and horticulture (greenhouses and nurseries), to feed and grain drying. Process heat in the form of steam and hot water is also used to ensure the maximum quality of food and beverage products and adhere to strict regulations for food safety. The biofuel industry also uses process heat to produce biofuels such as ethanol, and pre-treat/refine feedstocks such as animal fats, used cooking oil and oilseeds for biodiesel, renewable diesel and biojet production.

Globally, using bioheat from locally produced forest and agricultural biomass has been at the forefront of decreasing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with agriculture and agri-food processes and biofuel production. This has largely been accomplished through the adoption of biomass boilers and the rise of anaerobic digestion on farms. There are many successful installations of boilers using local biomass resources to produce heat in modern combustion systems in Europe. As of June 2020, [the AgroBioHeat consortium](#) has identified 126 agrobiomass heating facilities all over Europe.

Government incentives and supporting policies in some of the European countries have proven to be a key component in encouraging the use of agricultural biomass for bioenergy production. In the webinar, Neil Harrison from [re:heat](#) (UK) and Louise Krogh Johnson from [Food & Bio Cluster Denmark](#) share their insights on the impact of such incentives and policies on the use of agricultural biomass for heat and power production in their countries. Dr. Murray McLaughlin from the McLaughlin Consultants will share his decades of experience on how we can build an agriculture biomass industry in Canada.

To register for the free webinar, please click [here](#).

5 minutes	Introduction, Dr. Mahmood Ebadian, The University of British Columbia
20 minutes	A decade of carrots - The impact of the renewable Heat Intensive (RHI) on agricultural biomass use, Neil Harrison, Re:heat
20 minutes	How energy policy encouraged and forced the utilisation of straw for energy in Denmark, Louise Krogh Johnson, Food & Bio Cluster Denmark
20 minutes	Building an agriculture biomass industry in Canada, Murray McLaughlin, McLaughlin Consultants
25 minutes	Panel Discussion

List of Speakers:



Neil Harrison- Director, re:heat (UK)

A graduate of Newcastle University’s Rural Resource MSc programme, Neil has worked for the past 25 years in a range of roles relating to land management, science communication, forestry and bioenergy. Neil has experience of working with public, private and third sector clients in New Zealand, Australia, a number of former Soviet states and many EU countries. With re:heat, Neil works on early stage sales, expert witness, due diligence and feasibility studies at an individual project scale, and providing strategic research and advice for clients including BEIS, the UNDP and the EU.



Louise Krogh Johnson- Business Development Manager, Food & Bio Cluster Denmark

Louise Krogh Johnson has a Master’s Degree in International Studies from Aarhus University from 2009. She has worked with business development, innovation and internationalisation in the Danish bioenergy sector since 2010 as part of the Danish Innovation Network for Biomass and in various EU-funded projects. In 2020, she joined the team at Food & Bio Cluster Denmark – Denmark’s national cluster for food and bioresources – where she continues her work to support and promote intelligent use of bioresources for the benefit of the planet through membership support, network activities, and innovation projects driving the industry forward.



Murray McLaughlin- President, McLaughlin Consultants

Dr. Murray McLaughlin is President of McLaughlin Consultants and an advisor to the agriculture and forestry industries with a focus on the bioeconomy. He presently chairs the Biomass Quality Network Canada(BQNC) for BIC and is an Advisor for Bioenterprise Canada. Experiences over the years; President BIC and Sustainable Chemistry Alliance; Deputy Minister Agriculture, Saskatchewan; President AgWest Biotech. Others area of experience includes Canadian Light Source as Business Director; Managed FORAGEN, a Venture Capital Fund; Research and Marketing with ELANCO. Participated on several boards and advisory committees and recognized with several achievements over his career.

About BioMass Canada Cluster (BMC): BMC’s mandate is to mobilize Canada’s agricultural biomass resources for bioenergy and bioproducts production by de-risking and commoditizing agricultural biomass in all regions of Canada, while mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. BMC is led by the [BioFuelNet Canada Network](#), and supported by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

About Biomass and Bioenergy Research Group (BBRG): BBRG is a world-class research group, based at the University of British Columbia. The Group conducts advanced research and develops innovative solutions to meet the needs of the emerging biobased businesses in Canada and around the world.