

**RWE**

# **Update on NL Biomass Policies**

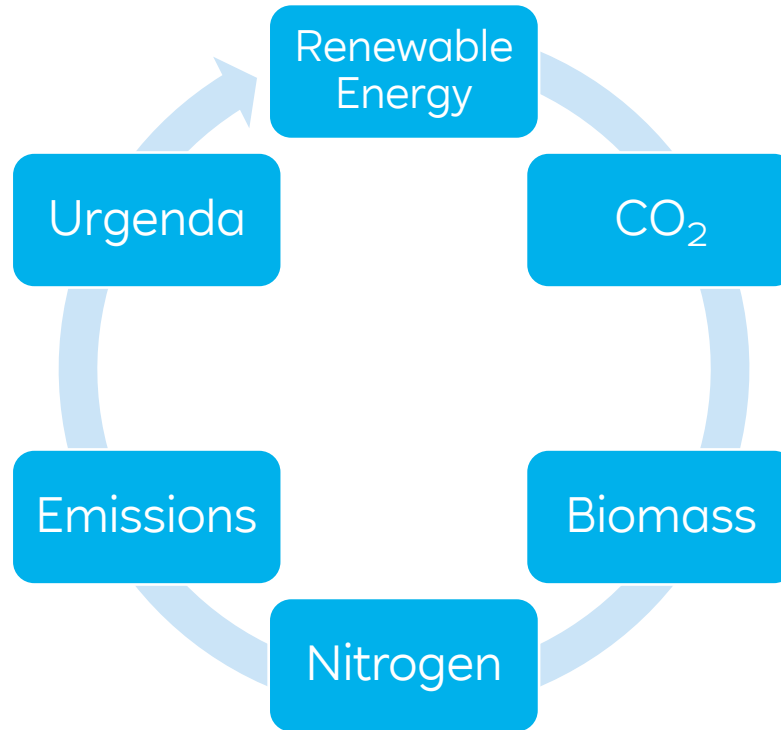
RBCN - Webinar.

**15 October 2020 - Ronald Zwart**

# Politieke partijen worstelen met gebrek aan alternatieven voor ongewenste biomassa

Een rondetafelgesprek over biomassa in de Tweede Kamer leverde deze woensdag geen nieuwe inzichten op, maar toonde wel de worsteling van de politiek met het onderwerp. Vanwege een gebrek aan maatschappelijk draagvlak willen veel partijen er vanaf, maar de aanwezige deskundigen hadden voor de korte termijn geen aantrekkelijk alternatief in de aanbieding voor de inzet van biomassa in de gebouwde omgeving.

# Agenda



# Renewable Energy

## Biomass and Sustainability

2013 – Sep.

### Energy Agreement

#### Promoting Renewable Energy: 14% in 2020 (276 PJ)

- 16% in 2023 (4.4% in 2013)
- max 25 PJ biomass cofiring (or 3.5 million Mmtons of wood pellets per year)

2015 – Mar.

### Biomass Covenant

#### Detailing the 25 PJ cofiring:

#### Agreed upon by the E-companies and NGOs

- Sustainability criteria
- 100% certification (FSC or equivalent)
- Extra-legal criteria
- Promoting small forest certification



Sustainability criteria put into law (2017)

- ✓ 'the world's most stringent'
- ✓ Complex execution



Continuous disputes between E-companies and NGOs on the execution of the Covenant

# CO<sub>2</sub>

## Climate Agreement

2017 – Oct.

### Government Program

**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saving:**  
**49% in 2030**  
**(113 Mtons)**

- Policy measures include:
- ✓ Closure of coal-fired power stations (12)
- ✓ CCU/S (18)
- ✓ Biomass co-firing is stopped after 2024

2019 – Jun.

### Climate Agreement

**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saving:**  
**49% in 2030**

- Biomass provisions:
- ✓ Sustainability framework for all biomass
- ✓ Doubling national biomass production
- ✓ Focus on biomass cascading



### Six Chapters:

1. Electricity
  2. Built environment
  3. Industry
  4. Agriculture and land use
  5. Mobility
  6. Cross-sector cohesion
- ✓ Biomass



### Implementation:

- 30 Regional Energy Strategies (1, 2)
- Otherwise, fragmented and incohesive

# Biomass

## Socio-Economic Council (SER)

2020 – Jul.

### SER Advice

#### **Biomass in Balance:**

#### Careful and responsible use

- Biomass contributes to three transitions:
  - ✓ CO<sub>2</sub> emissions saving
  - ✓ Circular economy
  - ✓ Soil improvement



Intense (social) media publications and public discussion



Parliament adopted a resolution asking the government for a bioenergy subsidy phase out



Parliament organized a Biomass Roundtable on October 14



Government response expected (Oct 16?)

# Nitrogen

## Council of State (RvS)

2019 – May

### Ruling on Nitrogen Reduction Program (PAS)

#### PAS:

##### Advance permission

- Permission for nitrogen emitting activities, anticipating future positive effects of nature protection measures.



Halting present nature permit requests



Preventing permit requests for new activities, incl. bio-energy

2020 – Jun

### Advisory Cie Final Report

#### 'Not everything everywhere'

- Accelerate nature improvement measures.
- Reduce nitrogen emissions and depositions.
- Biomass:
  - ✓ Stricter NOx emission limits for < 50MW installations
  - ✓ Stop subsidies for < 50MW

Bio-energy accounts for 0.2-0.3% of total NOx emissions

# Emissions

## Central-to-Local Government

2020 – Jan

### Clean Air Agreement (SLA)

#### NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM:

#### Health gains for everyone

- 50% health gain
- +4 months av life expectancy
- -5,000 premature deaths due to poor air quality
- Annual 3-6 billion Euro societal benefits



#### Measures for the Industry:

- Stricter permitting on emission levels
  - ✓ Lowest level BREF range limits in new and revised permits
  - ✓ Stricter monitoring and control
- Implementation of stricter emission limits in legislation
- Pilot: strict permitting

Emissions; so not only NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM

No techno-economic assessment



# Urgenda

## Legal procedure against the Dutch State

2019 – Dec

### Council of State Ruling

**25% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in 2020 is a must-do**

- Duty of care
- < 25% violates the European Convention on Human Rights



### Government response

Measures to reduce up to 11 Mton CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

- Phase-out of coal use in 2030 for electricity production (Act on the ban of coal)
- 2021-23: temporary coal capacity reduction
- 2020: tender for the permanent closure of one coal power station

# Tomorrow

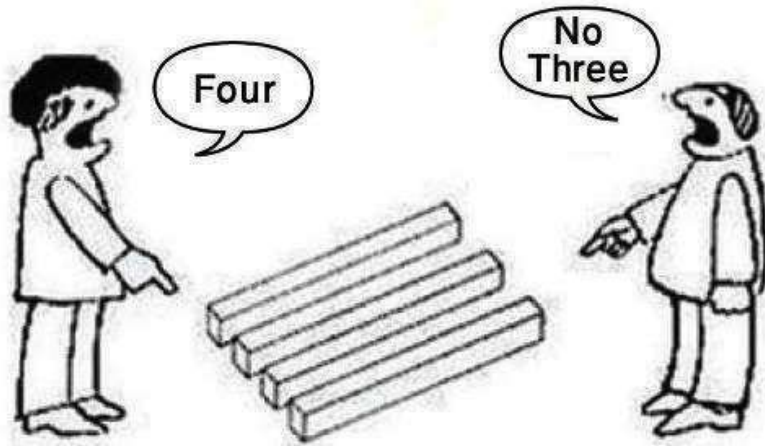
## Two Scenarios



# Action

## Balancing the arguments

It is really confusing!!!



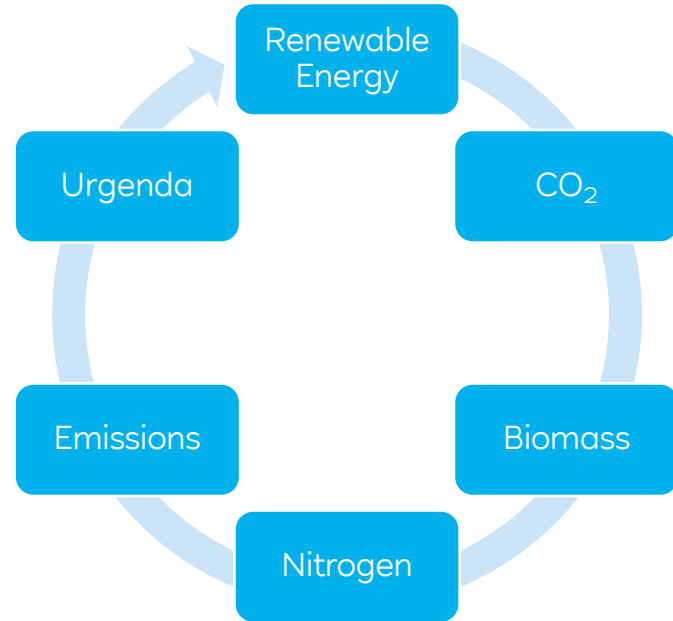
- Joint initiative by 20+ companies and organizations
- Launched early 2020
- Communication strategy
- Supported by PA and social media experts

# Conclusions

- Bio-energy faces a perfect storm situation:
  - ✓ Biomass is critical for meeting renewable energy and CO<sub>2</sub>-emission reduction targets, as well as stepping stone towards a biobased economy
  - ✓ While it is being challenged at the same time by both politicians, scientists, NGOs (and even from within the bioenergy sector)
- Stalemate in many discussions
- The bioenergy sector is becoming more vocal



- General elections in March 2021 will turn the tables?



# RWE

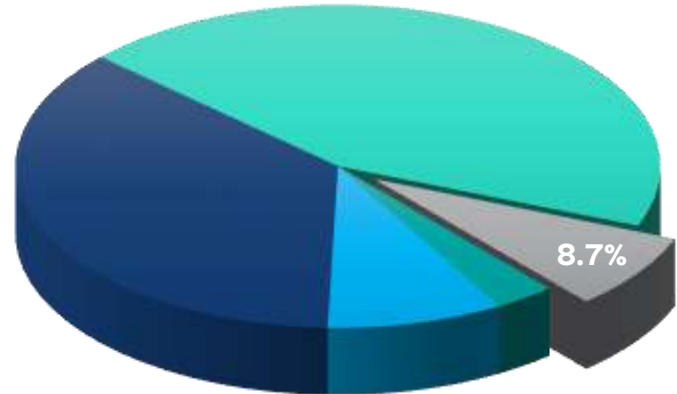
## Thank you

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# The Netherlands

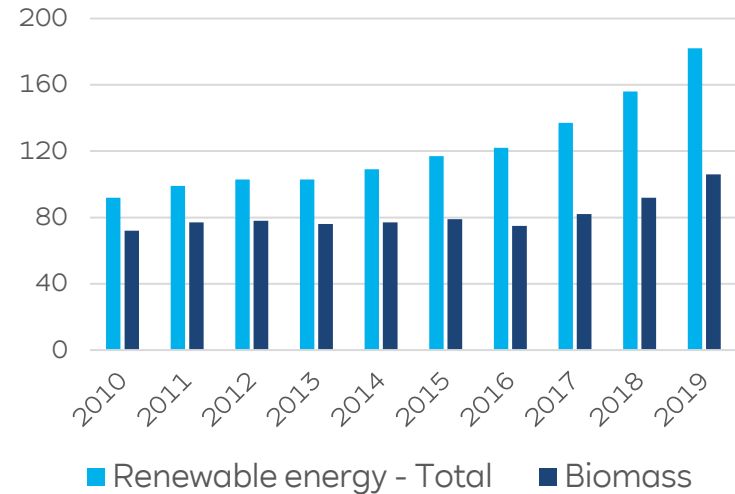
## Energy Profile

Energy portfolio 2019



■ Coal ■ Oil ■ Gas ■ Renewable ■ Other

Renewable Energy 2000 - 2019 (PJ Gross final Use)



CBS. Hernieuwbare Energie in Nederland 2019.