

CENTRE FOR BIOMASS TECHNOLOGY
- COVERS A CONTINUOUS DEMAND FOR PROFESSIONAL BIOENERGY INFORMATION

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ABSTRACT: The development of the bioenergy sector demands specialized knowledge. Technical information and a transfer of experiences on a professional level are essential issues in order to prevent new initiatives repeat previous faulty ideas. Centre for Biomass Technology (CBT) meets this demand with a highly specialized and yet very broad background knowledge. Since 1986 CBT has worked with careful recording of new experiences gained in research and development and from bioenergy systems in operation. Based on the idea of "give and receive", trading experiences has been part of a common effort to reach the ambitious goals for biomass utilisation in Denmark.

Keywords: Barriers to bioenergy, bioenergy marketing, feasibility studies, market implementation

1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of Centre for Biomass Technology (CBT) is to promote the utilization of wood, straw and other biofuels for energy purposes as alternatives to traditional fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

CBT is based on high-level technical knowledge provided by scientific staff being experts on biomass utilization, combustion, engineering, planning, environment, economy, and fuel types.

Through a very large contact potential and the partners' large activity within RD&D projects, CBT has gained an excessive knowledge about literally any technical, economical and environmental aspects of bioenergy, which is used as the massive background for the activities.

dk-TEKNIK ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Danish Technological Institute

Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute

Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences

The principle is rather simple: Hard-earned experiences are carefully collected, and the systematic dissemination of the experiences and findings helps preventing that mistakes are made more than once.

One of our most important functions is to help establishing and enhance cooperation between manufacturers, scientists, developers, users, plant personnel, etc. and bring down barriers for the promotion of biomass for energy production.

The services in CBT are usually in the sphere in between research and consultancy. The services are essential for a smooth development of the bioenergy sector, and the demand is increasing.

2 FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Centre for Biomass Technology aims through objective information at promoting the use of biofuels in combustion plants up to 20 MW.

Since 1986 CBT has helped hundreds of small and large energy consumers to change from fossil fuels to solid biofuels such as straw and wood chips.



At the beginning mainly especially district heating plants were in focus. With feasibility studies CBT has assisted existing plants or groups of locals willing to build a plant to reach an objective basis for the decision to build a biomass fuelled plant.



Lately the start-up assistance has more focussed on the feasibility of smaller biomass fuelled heating plants for companies and other public and private buildings, especially as a part of the rapidly growing wood pellet market. Around 50 feasibility studies for new bioenergy initiatives in industry, district heating and public buildings are made annually.



Besides the specific studies, CBT cooperates with the bioenergy plants, equipment manufacturers and fuel suppliers in order to help solving occurred problems. The cooperation at the same time enhances the gathering of bioenergy experience and may thus be a positive circle for the development of the sector.

3 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

Annually Centre for Biomass Technology answers thousands of mail and telephone enquiries on technical, economical and environmental issues within the Danish or international bioenergy sector.



The broad target group of professionals includes authorities, companies, manufacturers, fuel suppliers, consultants, heating plants, power plants and energy consumers.

3.1 Further information channels

Besides the excessive online information service, the gained experience is disseminated through annually:

- Around 50 articles about relevant subjects issued in technical journals
- 12 new fact sheets on technical issues of current interest for the target group
- 20 lectures given at national and international seminars and conferences
- Publication of reports, booklets
- Maintenance of a comprehensive homepage.

If the necessary knowledge is not available and a request cannot be replied in a qualified way, CBT has the possibility to conduct small studies and surveys and thus generate new knowledge, which can solve occurred problems in the bioenergy business. Larger research issues are usually conducted separately by the partners.

3.2 International information

Also at the presentation of Danish bioenergy knowledge and technology internationally the Centre or Biomass Technology plays an important role. By issuing bioenergy publications, giving international presentations, managing surveys of technology export and servicing foreign visitors, CBT participates in making Danish technology known over the borders to countries where the bioenergy is currently expanding.



5 ORGANISATION & FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Centre for Biomass Technology is a Danish biomass information network consisting of four partners, together covering all technical, economical and environmental topics within solid biofuels - from agroforestry through conversion issues to energy services and residues.

Previously the activities in CBT were focused on the national Danish level and mainly financed by the Danish Energy Authority. Now the perspective in CBT covers international issues and specific projects as well as ordinary consultancy assignments cover the activities.