

## **Agenda item 6 – Public forum statement**

### **Statement from The Avon Coalition against Big Biofuels**

The Avon Coalition against Big Biofuels wants to work with the community of Avonmouth to oppose the construction of three biomass power stations. We believe the environmental and social harm, including worsening climate change, deforestation, displacement of poor communities, killing of endangered species, together with severe pollution causing ill-health and shortened life-span both locally and to Bristol, are unacceptable. The plants are incompatible with Bristol as European Green Capital 2015. We are already engaged in a multi-aspect campaign to stop these plants and seek your help in doing so.

Helius Energy Plc. and W4B (Bristol) Ltd both have planning permission on Port land to build, respectively, a plant which will burn 850,000 tonnes of trees/year almost certainly from North American forests, and palm oil grown in plantations that destroy tropical forests. The third plant Balfour Beatty/Nexterra, if granted planning permission, will be built next to the Boomeco waste-wood chipping plant and will burn waste wood that is at present exported to Sweden from the port. This plant will import wood from as far afield as Hereford and will result in an expansion of chipping and its associated dust at Boomeco.

Our campaign concentrates on two distinct subjects:

1. Public health – which is being hazarded by carcinogenic wood-dust, toxic ash, flies, and stack emissions of toxic gases.
2. The unsustainability of the biofuels that will make climate change worse not better.

Our campaign targets: Investors, Councillors, The Mayor, MPs, The Green Investment Bank, The Treasury, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Environment Agency, Public Health bodies, Bristol Port Company Ltd. etc.

Similar campaigns, especially when engaging the local community, have successfully fought off other big biofuel plants in the UK.

**Please take part to save Avonmouth and the planet!**

For more details see <http://www.avoncoalitionagainstbigbiofuels.org.uk/>

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