

## Renewable Energy Plant at Leith - Scoping Opinion Response

**Leith Central Community Council** consider the following Issues to be of High Significance and would like answers to the following questions (the numbers refer to section numbering in the Scoping Report). For headings where comments have not been made it should be assumed that we consider these topics of lesser significance for the development in question.

**Our main concerns are:**

### 6.2 Landscape and Visual Impact

How can Forth Energy justify building a biomass plant of this size close to the historic centre of Leith and in the middle of the planned Leith Docks community of 16,000 households?

How does Forth Energy plan to camouflage the chimney stack and boiler house to minimise their adverse effects on the skyline views from most of Edinburgh (including the World Heritage Site) and Fife?

Smaller biomass plants (as suggested in the Edinburgh Local Plan) together with the increased domestic use of biomass would have less adverse visual impact. Why does this not appear to have been considered as an alternative to the proposed Leith power plant.

### 6.3 Air Quality and Climate

Will the height of the proposed chimney (100 meters) be adequate to disperse the exhaust from the plant far enough away from the Forth Estuary?

If this does not prove to be the case, Is it not likely that the incidence of advection fog (haar) will be markedly increased due to the expulsion of warm moisture laden exhaust gases over cold water in the Forth estuary? This fog could form a blanket of cloud in the Leith Harbour area and beyond. The colder lower layers of air will become saturated with moisture and form a blanketing cloud which would also contain NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and particulates from the combustion of the biomass. Thus streaking and soiling of the downwind high blocks at Platinum Point are a distinct possibility, accompanied by choking fumes and acid moisture deposition.

Can you provide an estimate of the increase in traffic related emissions due to the transportation of biomass to the power plant and the transport of ash away from the plant?

Can you provide an estimate of the carbon emissions involved in transporting the biomass from the areas of origin?

The report indicates that the flue gases will pass through 'a high efficiency dust collection system', but will this also capture particulates and contaminants likely to be mixed with the biomass? Can you include an indicative exhaust gas analysis?

The stockpiling of feedstock in 'piles' is unlikely to be stable in the high winds experienced in the area. What measures will be taken to ensure debris would not be blown about?

Asthma rates are already at record levels, particularly amongst children. How will the vulnerable population be protected against the inevitable dust produced during construction of the power plant, from increased pollution during its operation and from the large scale movement of ash?

## 6.4 Noise and Vibration

Very little is said about the noise nuisance. Is there likely to be a 24/7 conveyor system?

What effects will the increased noise and vibration have on the viability of the planned (surrounding) Leith Docks communities?

## 6.5 Terrestrial Ecology

## 6.6 Estuarine Ecology

How will the estuarine ecology be affected by the increase of large vessels in the Forth? It would be useful to have clear calculations on the size and number of ships needed in the process and assess their impact on local estuarine wildlife and water quality. This should address the questions of accidental oil and/or chemical spillage, effluents and rubbish, but also any disturbance that increased water traffic may have in the long term.

Furthermore, we would like to know the extent of the area around the proposed development to be included in any risk assessment should such spillages occur on a large scale.

## 6.7 Transport, Traffic and Access

If 10%-30% of the biomass is predicted to come by road, how many lorry loads per day will this entail. What routes will these lorries take? How will the ash be removed? How many additional lorry loads will this entail?

## 6.8 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Soils

## 6.9 Cultural Heritage

## 6.10 Socio-economic and Land Use

Will any of the biomass be sourced from Scotland or the the UK? if not, where will this be sourced from?

The majority of biomass will be imported from overseas. How can importing biomass from distant countries be economically cost effective? How can Forth Ports calculate the cost effectiveness of this, given an increasing demand for biomass and the uncertainty of financial exchange rates?

What are the ecological effects of large scale biomass production in the exporting countries?

If '*feasible*' heat for residential areas is referred to as only a '*potential use*' - why 'potential'? What does this potentiality depend on?

Ash: What will the ash residue be used for? What percentage of this will go to landfill?

How will the proposed plant and its associated infrastructure (land use, bad neighbour, shipping/rail/road requirements) impact on the proposed residential housing (already approved in outline and part of the trams business case)?

How many proposed residential units will have to be removed from the docks to

accommodate the proposed plant?

### **6.11 Aviation and Telecommunications**

Does a 100m high stack not represent an air hazard to the flight approach to Edinburgh airport?

Will not the adverse effects of the increased incidence of 'haar' in the Forth estuary (see 6.3 above) also have an adverse effect on the operations of Edinburgh airport?

Can the Environmental Impact Assessment please include more meteorological information?