





Bioenergy – the Energy Transition Blindspot

Brian Ó Gallachóir IrBEA National Bioenergy Conference 2020, Croke Park Hotel, Dublin February 26, 2020









Highlights

- 1. Does bioenergy contribute much?
 - yes 13% of energy globally / 9% in EU (more than other RE)
- 2. Why is there a bioenergy blindspot?
 - food vs fuel / 'no' to burn / confusion
- 3. How can the blindspot be addressed?
 - engage with citizens / focus on targets / highlight contribution







Opening Questions

1. How much of our energy is from renewable sources?

2. What is the contribution of Bioenergy?

3. What is the contribution of Wind and Solar PV?



Bioenergy dominates Global RE

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Source **Renewables 2019 Global Status Report** https://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/ 2019/05/gsr_2019_full_report_en.pdf



Bioenergy 13% of global energy. Wind and solar <2% of global energy

Bioenergy dominates EU RE Source EUROSTAT EU Renewable Energy Data https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/data/shares





Bioenergy 9% of EU energy. Wind and solar 4% of EU energy

Bioenergy in Rol's RE

Source EUROSTAT EU Renewable Energy Data https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/energy/data/shares



Role of Bioenergy

Contribution	Global	EU	Rol
Renewables	18%	19%	11%
Bioenergy	13%	9%	4%
Wind & Solar	2%	4%	6%



Why is bioenergy a blindspot?





Why is bioenergy a blindspot?





Why is bioenergy a blindspot?





Addressing the blindspot – Engage



Urgent action on renewable heat and transport will provide a unique double dividend



The energy transition is not just about electricity









Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoi Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment

How do we Engage Communities in Climate Action? Practical Learnings from the Coal Face May 2019

Ireland has 170,000 'Invisible Electric Cars'...Sustainable Liquid Biofuels at fuel pumps displace fossil fuels in transport & avoided 340,000 tonnes of CO2 in 2018. This is a similar contribution to about 170k EV's



Addressing the blindspot – Focus on Targets



Source EPA

Highlight Contribution

Glynn, J., Gargiulo, M., Chiodi, A., Deane, P., Rogan F., Ó Gallachóir, B., 2019. *Zero carbon energy system pathways for Ireland consistent with the Paris Agreement*. **Climate Policy** 19:1, 30-42



- Bioenergy increases significantly from 3 TWh in 2010 to 55 TWh in 2050.
- This represents twice the current total annual electricity use in Ireland.
- The most significant growth is in transport, increasing by 22 TWh by 2050.
- Results also point to 13 TWh electricity generation from bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS).

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