



PLATFORM BIOBASED RAW MATERIALS

The Platform Biobased Raw Materials aims for a future in which we will make wider use of renewable sources to provide for our needs in energy, chemicals and materials (such as plastics and building materials). The Platform uses its expertise to make the conditions for this transition as beneficial as possible.

In the vision of the Platform, the Netherlands should use raw materials more carefully. The total demand for energy, chemicals and materials must return to the same level in 2030 as it was in 2000. This means that we must save more energy and recycle more materials and products.

By 2030, the Platform foresees to replace 30% of fossil fuels used in the Netherlands with biobased raw materials (biomass). And in 2030, biobased raw materials must supply the following:

- 60% of transport fuels
- 25% of chemicals and materials
- 17% of heating requirements
- 25% of the electricity demand.

The Platform realizes that the Netherlands has a limited agricultural area and that over 50% of these needed biobased raw materials will have to be imported to achieve the above goals.

Transition paths

To realize this vision, the Platform has selected a number of transition paths—routes that will be actively promoted.

We have made a distinction between producing the biobased raw materials and processing these raw materials into finished products or intermediate products.

Production of biobased raw materials

- Sustainable development and production of biomass in the Netherlands as well as abroad.
 - Aquatic biomass for high-grade applications
 - Application of agricultural residues
 - Improved efficiency of existing uses of biomass
 - Crop development for biomass refining
- Realisation of imported biomass.

Conversion into products

- Co-production of chemicals (C₁-C₆), transport fuels, electricity and heat by means of:
 - Biorefining—separating the raw material into various useful fractions
 - Fermentation, enzymatic/chemical conversion
 - Gasification/pyrolysis/co-firing/fermentation of residual streams
 - Production of Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) for the natural gas infrastructure
 - Innovative use of green raw materials (biomass).

What the platform does

The Platform aims to actively promote the Energy Transition by:

- Encouraging and facilitating market participants when initiating experiments and business endeavours involving biobased raw materials;
- Creating beneficial conditions for the transition; identifying and eliminating market barriers and advising the government about policy;
- Identifying international developments and entering into frameworks of cooperation with the leading companies and knowledge institutes abroad.

The Platform does not provide financial support to individual projects. For more information about funding arrangements, contact SenterNovem. Funding is available for demonstration projects (UKR) and long-term energy research (EOS) and other projects.

The Platform Biobased Raw Materials was established in April 2005. The chairperson is Paul Hamm. The other members of the platform are representatives of the chemical and food industries, universities and research institutes, non-governmental organisations, and the government.

Background

The Platform Biobased Raw Materials is part of Energy Transition: a collaborative agreement between the business community, the government, knowledge institutes and civil society organisations (NGO's). They all work together to ensure that energy supplies in 2050 are sustainable. Energy will then be clean, affordable for everyone, and in continuous supply.

A platform has been set up for each transition path. Besides the platform Biobased Raw Materials there are 6 more platforms: New Gas, Sustainable Mobility, Chain Efficiency, Sustainable Electricity Supply, Energy in the Built Environment, and The Greenhouse as Energy Source.

Energy Transition is guided by the Direction Board Energy Transition the Netherlands. The Direction Board stimulates and connects parties; Theo Walthie is the chair. The Dutch government is closely involved. The Ministry of Economic Affairs has supported the transition approach since 2002. In 2005 six ministries clustered their strengths into the Interdepartmental Programme Management for Energy Transition.

More information

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EnergyTransition – Creative Energy. Industry, governments, knowledge institutes and civil society organisations all work together to ensure that energy supplies are sustainable in 2050. Energy will then be clean, affordable for everyone, and in continuous supply. Energy Transition demands and supplies creative energy.