

Questions and Answers generated from the Wetland Biomass to Bioenergy Briefing Event on 8th October, 2012.**1. How will IP be managed between the contractor and DECC?**

SBRI involves a high degree of benefit/risk sharing, so although the IP will belong to the contractor, DECC will have certain rights to the IP. Full details on IP can be found in the contract T&Cs that will be posted on the DECC wetland biomass webpage.

2. Will an LCA model be provided for the competition?

An LCA template will be provided to successful Phase 1 projects, and will be used to supplement the Phase 1 report. Elements to consider for the initial proposal include:

- Feedstock harvested yield (e.g. dry te/ha).
- Harvesting energy requirements and carbon emissions (e.g. diesel required per hectare. This information can be used with the feedstock yield to calculate the diesel requirement per tonne of feedstock harvested).
- Transport method and distances involved (e.g. both feedstock and products transported).
- Density of the feedstock and product during transport (e.g. denser feedstocks have lower emissions and energy requirements associated with their transport).
- Processing energy requirement and emissions (e.g. by power, or other inputs required by the process).
- The embodied energy (and carbon) associated with the equipment required for the process.
- Disposal methods of any waste products.
- The amount of energy produced and hence fossil fuels which are replaced.
- The potential for carbon sequestration in kg CO₂ per tonne of feedstock collected (e.g. biochar).

3. Will the cost of buying equipment for the project be eligible for funding?

Yes capital and equipment costs are included as eligible costs. Full details on eligible costs can be found in the competition guidance document on the DECC wetland biomass website.

4. Can we form collaborations with the wetland management companies for the competition?

A wetland manager consortium has been established to provide advice relating to wetland issues, and support with the project trials on the specified sites (see guidance notes). This advice and support will be available to successful projects at no cost. Unless you intend to use a site outside of those proposed in the competition guidance document there should be no need to include wetland managers in your project consortium.

5. What happens if everyone wants to be the lead partner in the proposal or DECC doesn't rate the company chosen to be the lead partner, does this mean the other partners lose out?

The arrangements for the project consortium will be left to the consortium to decide. DECC will review each proposal fairly using the assessment criteria in the guidance document.

6. Can you be part of more than one proposal?

Yes but you will need to be able to ensure resource is available for each proposal as DECC intend to fund more than one project.

7. Do we need to put a price in for all three stages and is the £2m for all three phases combined.

Yes you will need to submit a price for all three phases in the proposal and the £2m budget is for all three phases.

8. Is there a limit to how much can be spent on each phase?

As long as the projects are within the proposed budget, DECC will not impose a limit on each Phase. Although, Phase 1 is not expected to exceed £50,000 as it will primarily be a desk based study. DECC understands that phases 2 and 3 costs will be an estimate until Phase 1 has been completed.

9. How many projects will be selected for the competition?

There is no pre-defined limit on the number of projects that might be selected. Proposals will be assessed on technical merit and funding provided to those scoring most highly within the programme budget.

10. Will environmental permits be required if the wetland biomass is classed as a waste once removed from the site

DECC are in contact with the Environment Agency to determine whether the biomass removed from wetlands is considered 'waste'. This will be confirmed at a later date, but initial indications are that this biomass will not be considered a waste and will be exempt from waste regulations.

11. Biomass plants have not been allowed to be sited on wetland conservation sites before, has this changed for the pilot?

It depends on the size of the facility. Partners should take advice from the wetland managers on the potential impact that energy generation might have before reviewing the options.

12. How much detail will be available from the wetland managers? i.e. volume of biomass for each site, harvest cycle etc

Full details will be made available for the two sites mentioned in the competition. And circulated to attendees.

13. Can we claim funds from the RHI or ROCs as well as receiving funding from this competition?

As this competition will procure R&D services under pre-commercial procurement guidelines, the funding received under this competition does not impact grants for ROCs or RHI.