

24 November 2025

MEDIA STATEMENT

Integrated Bioenergy Programme: A Faster, Cheaper, NZ-made Alternative to LNG

Bioenergy Association unveils integrated national plan to unlock 13.5 PJ of energy by 2030

The Bioenergy Association has put forward a bold, coordinated national programme that would unlock 13.5 PJ of natural gas and electricity capacity by 2030 - providing a domestic, lower-cost, ready-to-deploy alternative to LNG.

Brian Cox, Executive Officer of the Bioenergy Association, said:

“New Zealand doesn’t need to invest in expensive LNG infrastructure when a faster, cheaper, proved domestic solution already exists. The fact that LNG even needs to be on the table reflects years of failed energy policy”.

He said the Integrated Bioenergy Programme combines six established bioenergy workstreams into one coordinated, five-year plan, purpose-built to address the gas supply crunch. Collaborating with wood and waste sectors to jointly achieve impact.

“This programme brings dozens of near-investment-ready projects together into a single, scalable delivery model capable of producing measurable results by June 2027”, Mr Cox said. “It frees up natural gas and electricity capacity, strengthening the grid and the economy during dry years or supply disruptions.

The programme accelerates New Zealand’s transition to renewable heat by replacing fossil gas in government and industrial sites. It integrates wood energy, biomethane, and feedstock infrastructure under a unified framework - delivering resilience, decarbonisation, and regional economic growth.

“This is a practical, made-in-New-Zealand solution that outperforms LNG on cost, resilience, and economic return. These are proven technologies that can be delivered at pace.”

With government co-investment, Mr Cox said the sector can rapidly free up natural gas, lift energy security, and create skilled regional jobs.

Mr Cox said the Programme’s benefits include:

- **Energy Security:** Displaces 13.5 PJ of gas and electricity demand by 2030, reducing exposure to global LNG volatility.
- **Economic Growth:** Boosts forestry, wood processing, transport, waste, and manufacturing sectors.
- **Lower Energy Costs:** Renewable heat at less than half the cost of natural gas.
- **Decarbonisation:** Mobilising carbon-neutral fuels from local biomass and organic residues.
- **Regional Resilience:** Replicable North Island delivery models, with South Island to follow.

“The Programme positions bioenergy as a cornerstone of New Zealand’s clean energy transition, supporting the Government’s goals for energy reliability, emissions reduction, and regional development.” Mr Cox said.

The Bioenergy Association will seek government partnership to activate the programme through co-investment, accelerated consenting, and targeted renewable-heat incentives. Industry partners across forestry, waste, energy, and manufacturing are ready to begin delivery from 2026.

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For further information

https://www.bioenergy.org.nz/documents/resource/LNG-submission-BANZ-NZ_Integrated_Bioenergy_Programme_251117.pdf

Brian Cox
Executive Officer
Bioenergy Association

Mobile: +64 274 771 048
Email: brian.cox@bioenergy.org.nz
Website: www.bioenergy.org.nz