

11 March 2019

Position statement

Christchurch hospital will soon be using biomass fuel

The Hon David Clark has announced that Christchurch hospital will install two new biomass boilers to replace the existing coal boilers.

“It is great to see Government ‘putting its money where its mouth is’ with regard to reducing emissions. Such investment leadership will encourage business to also move to use biomass energy.” Said Brian Cox, Executive Officer of the Bioenergy Association.

Mr Cox added that “The decision by the Canterbury District Health Board and the Government to install two biomass fuelled boilers at Christchurch hospital to replace the existing coal fuelled boilers demonstrates the increasing growth in the use of biomass to replace coal and natural gas for heating. The decision provides a show of confidence in the availability of biomass fuel into the future, and the capability of the biomass fuel suppliers to reliably deliver specification fuel to meet demand.”

“The installation of yet more biomass fuelled heat plant in Canterbury is providing the demand pull that is encouraging biomass fuel suppliers to grow their capabilities to source and supply fuel.”

“The growing pool of heat plant fuelled by biomass in Canterbury is also providing the critical mass necessary for having adequate levels of advisers and service providers in the region. “

“Government has signalled that it wants a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from process heat so it is encouraging to see that its own investment decisions are making Canterbury a role model on how 20PJ of coal and gas could be replaced by biomass fuel by 2050.”

ends

Background

1. Press release from Hon David Clark on Renewable energy for Christchurch hospital. www.beehive.govt.nz/release/renewable-energy-christchurch-hospital
2. Bioenergy Association represents consultants, fuel suppliers, heat plantowners and others with a commercial interest in bioenergy and biofuels across new Zealand, Australia and the pacific.
3. The use of biomass fuels for process heat instead of coal and gas are proven and widely used by those with immediate access to biomass which can be used as a fuel.
4. The market for buying and selling biomass fuel by those without immediate access to their own sources of biomass is in its infancy but now has strong foundations.

5. The biomass fuel supply chain has a number of players but like any evolving market the New Zealand biomass fuel supply market now has cornerstone players who are expanding their supply capabilities at a fast but orderly rate so that boom/bust scenarios will be avoided.
6. There is potentially no reason why biomass fuel supply will be a future problem as there are many avenues for sourcing biomass such as using the 1 billion trees programme to produce a new carbon sink every 30 years by planting commercial forests.
7. Biomass fuels from perpetually renewable natural resources will produce new employment, additional income from less productive lands, and provide future fuel supply security.
8. Storable biofuels can be used to enhance electricity security and heat demand using current proven electricity generation technologies.
9. Additional information is available from:

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