



The PBL biomass report does not take the climate seriously.

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The Federation against Biomass plants criticizes the new report from the PBL (the Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency). The PBL report doesn't provide the necessary recommendations for a good climate policy and states that Dutch climate policy can't do without the burning of biomass. This statement is false. On the contrary, biomass combustion increases the climate problem, causes damage to our health and reduces biodiversity.

The PBL has made an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of biomass combustion for bio-energy and climate policies and states that biomass combustion remains necessary for climate change policy. Because the CO₂ emissions from biomass combustion don't have to be included in emission reports, it helps the Netherlands in achieving the climate goals. In reality, the CO₂ emissions are there and biomass combustion thus contributes to climate change. New trees will only account for the emitted CO₂ after 50 up to more than 100 years, assuming they are being replanted at all. We don't have that much time. The PBL admits that biomass combustion exacerbates the climate problem because of this CO₂ debt, but does not advise to stop the subsidies for burning biomass.

As long as the IPCC continues to include biomass combustion in its scenarios and Europe transposes this in legislation the Netherlands will do the same. The European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC) states that burning biomass damages both the climate and biodiversity. It is unbelievable that the PBL does not acknowledge this. The practical reports of foreign forest protection organizations have not been taken into account sufficiently. Subsidies should be used for actual sustainable solutions such as insulation, wind and solar energy and geothermal heat. The EASAC, which does not rely on external funding, is very clear in stating that biomass combustion is bad for the climate. The PBL is being advised by parties and persons who have a financial interest in burning biomass. We recommend the SER (Social Economic Council) and the Dutch government to listen to the scientists from EASAC.

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