

LobbyFacts Research Part 1: The paid pro-biomass lobby conducted by the energy companies.

Contribution for the PBL's research into the availability of sustainable biomass and its application possibilities in the Netherlands.



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EDSP ECO is a research and project agency and creates an environment to support organizations worldwide that are responsible for actions to protect the planet, end poverty or increase well-being. We provide support in the form of building and managing websites, conducting extensive research, setting up and offering digital campaigns, connecting stakeholders, giving public speeches and interviews and developing and deploying environmentally friendly solutions. In addition, we actively focus on politicians and companies that contribute to pollution and climate change.

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Preface

Science is conducted by humans and many things can go wrong in the production and application of science. Partly in response to parliamentary questions, in 2005 the Minister of Education, Culture and Science asked the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW) to advise on [how to ensure the scientific independence of research commissioned by a third-parties](#) and conducted by researchers in the public sector.

The KNAW concluded that clients often live in worlds with objectives and values and norms (business, politics, interest groups, etc.) that are very different from those that researchers and science should use. The pressure to let their own objectives predominate can be high with clients, which in unfavorable cases can translate into pressure on the researchers.

Publications and informal conversations suggest that derailments occur: the design of the research, the data collection and the interpretation are sometimes adjusted to obtain a favorable outcome for the client, and the publication of that outcome is sometimes prevented, delayed or adapted to the wishes of the client. This applies to research assignments from governments and interest groups as well as to industrial clients.

However, the KNAW's recommendations to prevent independent research from designing, conducting, interpreting and publishing the research being improperly influenced by the interests of the client have not been followed, with disastrous consequences. [Follow The Money \(FTM\) has published 23 articles about this in the past five years.](#)

EDSP ECO is committed to protect science and society against bad or deliberate misleading products that are brought to the public as products of good scientific research and we have [conducted extensive research in the past year into the paid pro-biomass lobby in the Netherlands](#). Several Dutch universities, research agencies and companies are involved in these practices which result in extensive damage to our health, to nature, the climate and therefore our future. We provide our findings as input for the research by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), which will serve as the basis for the advice of the Social and Economic Council (SER) with regard to the use of biomass in the Netherlands.



“We are in danger of destroying ourselves by our greed and stupidity. We cannot remain looking inwards at ourselves on a small and increasingly polluted and overcrowded planet.”

[Stephen Hawking](#)

The research

This research is part of an extensive study into the paid pro-biomass lobby activities in the Netherlands. The full study consists of the following 6 parts which will be published on the following website:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/research/lobby-facts>

Part 1: [Energy companies](#)

Part 2: [Politics and civil servants](#)

Part 3: [Scientists](#)

Part 4: [Consultants and lobbyists](#)

Part 5: [Certification and subsidies](#)

Part 6: [Banks and investors](#)

In this article we will first provide insight into the annual amounts that the paid pro-biomass lobby of the energy companies spend to encourage politicians to provide even more subsidies for the burning of woody biomass. We pay extra attention to the RWE / Essent board members who are responsible for the worldwide trade in biomass.

LobbyFacts Database

[The LobbyFacts database](#) indicates 120+ organizations involved in the paid pro biomass lobby in European institutions with a total amount [between 33 and 39 million euro's annually](#). LobbyFacts is a project of the [Corporate Europe Observatory](#) and [LobbyControl](#) and collects information from official sources including [the EU transparency register](#).

In addition to the organizations lobbying in European institutions we have identified nearly 200 organizations actively lobbying in the Netherlands to promote the burning of woody biomass for energy generation, many of whom are involved in the paid pro-biomass lobby. Both [the Dutch government](#) and the [European Union](#) pay millions of euros per year (from our own tax money) to the pro-biomass lobby activities.

According to the LobbyFacts database, the 5 largest energy suppliers in the Netherlands appear to spend millions to realize biomass burning in the Netherlands. [erdoorheen te krijgen](#).

Examples of energy companies involved in the pro-biomass lobby in the Netherlands

[Uniper](#) (E.ON), according to the lobby monitor, spends nearly half a million euros a year on lobbying activities in the European Union alone and has 3 full-time lobbyists at work. On top of that the costs for the extra lobbyists and lobbying activities in the Netherlands are added.

[Vattenfall](#) (Nuon), according to the lobby monitor, spends nearly one million euros a year on lobbying activities in the European Union alone and has 4 full-time lobbyists at work. On top of that the costs for the extra lobbyists and lobbying activities in the Netherlands are added.

[RWE](#) (Essent) according to the lobby monitor, spends at least one million euros a year on lobbying activities in the European Union alone and has 5 full-time lobbyists at work. The Dutch directors of the RWE are among the most active pro biomass lobbyists in the Netherlands, sit on several pro biomass lobby committees and initiatives and sponsor pro biomass reports.

[Veolia](#) according to the lobby monitor, spends nearly a million euros a year on lobbying activities in the European Union alone and has 6 full-time lobbyists at work. On top of that the costs for the extra lobbyists and lobbying activities in the Netherlands are added.

[ENGIE](#) (GDF SUEZ/Electrabel) according to the lobby monitor, spends more than two million euros a year on lobbying activities in the European Union alone and has 11 full-time lobbyists at work. On top of that the costs for the extra lobbyists and lobbying activities in the Netherlands are added.

Pro-biomass lobbying activities of the Netherlands and the European Union include: ADBE, AEBIOM, BBE, Bioenergie Realisatie Koepel, Biomass 2040, Biomass Policies, Biomass Trade Centers, BioTrade2020Plus, BioWKK, DIACORE, EUBCE, EUBIA, EUBIONET, IEA Bioenergy, IPBBE, PELLCERT, Platform Bio-energie, Platform Duurzame Grondstoffen, Platform Groene Grondstoffen, Platform Hout in Nederland, Projectbureau Duurzame Energie, S2Biom, SBP. We will return to this in detail in parts 2 and 4 of this study.

Three energy companies made the decision to build the brand new coal-fired power stations at about the same time, in 2008. However, soon regrets about the decision arose. In 2011, RWE CEO [Peter Terium said](#) that he would not build the coal-fired power station in Eemshaven "with the knowledge of today". The construction was nevertheless continued, after which the coal-fired power stations were put into operation in 2015 (RWE and Engie) and 2016 (Uniper).

On November 4, 2019, [Follow the Money published](#) an article in which they demonstrated with confidential internal memos from 2006 that the energy suppliers indeed relied on their lobby, but that this lobby failed due to the wrong assumption of the electricity companies that they had many more years of free CO2 rights. As a result, only 15 percent of emissions would actually have to be paid. In 2013, however, the government decided ([as was to be expected](#)) to stop distributing free CO2 allowances to electricity companies. Whereas coal-fired power stations previously received 85 percent of their CO2 allowances for free, they now had to pay for the whole amount since 2013. This wrong estimate had a huge influence on the profitability of the power stations. When coal is burned to generate electricity, an average of 798 grams of CO2 per kWh is released. When burning natural gas, this is less than half: an average of 396 grams of CO2 per kWh.

[As extensively measured by science](#) and [brought into the news](#), burning woody biomass releases three times more CO2 per kWh hour than burning gas. The burning of woody biomass even produces one and a half times more CO2 emissions than the burning of coal.

Despite these poor prospects, billions of euros have been added to coal-fired power stations in the Netherlands in recent years. Uniper and Engie each built a new coal-fired power station on the Second Maasvlakte, which required an investment of around 1.7 billion euros each. RWE built a gigantic power station in Eemshaven in Groningen, which cost around 3.5 billion euros.

[Uniper has filed a claim for damages](#) with the government (which we as citizens will pay through taxes) of EUR 850 million (half of the costs of building the plant). Also in Gelderland there is a great fear within the municipality and the province of a claim for damages from Veolia if the Province would choose to close the plant.

RWE/Essent saw the storm coming early on and has fully committed itself to the [pro-biomass lobby](#) and has been [very successful with that](#). In addition to the biomass powerplant in Cuijk where the RWE/Essent has been burning woody biomass since 1999 and the Amer power plant, where they have been burning woody biomass since 2001 they have recently also switched [to burning biomass](#) in the Groningen Eemshaven. The company receives billions in subsidies, again at the expense of our health, nature, the environment and our future. [In 2011 the RWE Essent constructed a gigantic wood pellet factory in Georgia \(America\)](#) causing [massive deforestation and destruction](#).

[Peter-Paul Schouwenberg](#) (Manager Biobased Economy of RWE Essent) is, together with a number of other RWE Essent directors, the driving force from the energy industry that has ensured that the use of woody biomass for generating energy worldwide on a gigantic scale set up and accepted. He has been working for the [Provincial North Brabant Electricity Company](#) (PNEM) and the [Electricity Production Company South Netherlands](#) (EPZ) since 1986, which after a merger became Essent.



[Image 11: The authors' names are stated at the top of many paid pro-biomass lobby reports from the Utrecht University and RWE Essent](#)

[RWE \(Essent\) spends one million euros](#) per year on lobbying activities in the European Union and has 5 full-time lobbyists at work. This amount is not included in the costs that they make in the Netherlands for the pro-biomass lobby. The Dutch directors of RWE, who are among the most active pro-biomass lobbyists in the Netherlands, sit in various pro-biomass lobby committees and initiatives and finance pro-biomass reports written by Martin Junginger ([click on this link to view a zip file with multiple download these reports](#)).

In 2002, Schouwenberg became the head of purchasing biomass and presented the [Essent Green Gold Label](#) certification for biomass that was set up in collaboration with [Peterson Bulk Logistics and Control Union Certifications](#). Based on the fact that the import of biomass for electricity production was announced by a factor of seven between 2003 and 2005, and in 2007 around 80% of all biomass was imported, according to Essent and the Copernicus Institute. Essent was the largest biomass user in the Netherlands in 2004 and reported that around 30% of the biomass came from North America, 25% from Western Europe and 20% from Asia, the rest from Africa, Eastern Europe, Russia and South America. In 2002, Essent already had the plan to transfer it to the Sustainable Biomass Partnership / Platform (SBP) in preparation for their worldwide network for the trade in biomass. A remarkable fact concerns [the involvement of minister Jacqueline Cramer](#). In 2002, as director of her own sustainability institute (USI) in collaboration with the Copernicus Institute, she accepted the assignment from RWE Essent to transform RWE Essent's Green Gold Label into an Essent / RWE independent label (SBP) and to investigate whether it could be affiliated with the [Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers](#) (IWPB).

The construction for awarding the sustainability certificates is even more remarkable. Certiq is responsible for the granting of biomass certification for the energy companies and is a subsidiary of [network manager Tennet](#). [Certiq's board](#) only includes directors of energy companies, including Mr Schoutenberg from RWE Essent. Every element in the biomass chain, from certification, harvesting, production, trade, transport to incineration and obtaining subsidies, is imbued with conflicts of interest. And this is legal.

A study carried out by the industrial wood pellet sector

Forest Sustainability and Carbon Balance of EU Importation of North American Forest Biomass for Bioenergy Production

Study carried out by:



With the collaboration of:

- Drax
- GDF SUEZ / Laborelec
- ESSENT NV
- E.ON Climate & Renewables
- Danish Energy Association
- Vattenfall AB

Study published in
September 2013
and available on
www.aebiom.org

Reviewed by Dr. Martin Junginger, Utrecht University, Copernicus Institute

This slide supplied by Fanny-Pomme Langué of AEBIOM

[Image 12: Image from a presentation of the wood pellet organization. The presentation contains extensive information on how to deal with the NGOs that are against biomass](#)

Schouwenberg is not only responsible for the realization of the [RWE Essent biomass program](#), but has also ensured that the major national and a number of international energy companies joined his initiative for a global trade in biomass. To realize that plan, he became [director of biomass trading at Duferco](#) in 2008 (revenues of 10 billion euros per year) and a year later the [biomass manager of Nidera](#), where his plans with RWE Essent for a [global bioenergy market](#) caused a substantial expansion (in 2012 the company made a profit of 72 million euros with 17 billion euros generated in sales).

Schouwenberg is a [board member](#) of the [Rotterdam Biomass Commodities Network](#) (RBCN). The RBCN was founded in [early 2010](#) by [Ronald Zwart](#) (also a director of RWE Essent) together with, among others, a director of Eneco. The RBCN was funded by the government through the [Rotterdam Climate Initiative](#) (RCI) and [kicked off by Ruud Lubbers](#). In March 2010, RWE Essent organized the first [Biomass Trade and Power Conference](#) where they presented their plans for a global economy in biomass. A month later, [Schouwenberg presented the business case](#) in which they also mentioned participating parties such as Drax, EON-UK (Uniper), Essent (RWE), and Electrabel (GDF SUEZ / ENGIE). Halfway through 2010, [RWE / Essent presented their Business arrangement proposal](#) for the global trade in biomass.

The same year a workgroup was launched called "[Initiative for Wood Pellets Buyers](#)" (IWPB). The IWPB was initiated by 6 companies (including Electrabel, Dong, Nuon, RWE / Essent / npower, Vattenfall, E.ON), all major buyers of wood pellets with the aim of importing wood pellets from abroad to burn them to generate electricity. [The IWPB was later institutionalized](#) as the Sustainable Biomass Partnership / Program (SBP).



[Figure 13: Greenpeace protest against the Essent power stations \(2011/2012\)](#)

[RWE / Essent top officials have lobbied heavily](#) in the following years and ultimately ensured that their plans were incorporated into [the Energy Agreement](#). This was possible thanks to the [support of Minister Cramer](#) and [the reports from the Copernicus Institute](#).

At the end of 2012, Dogwood Alliance published an [extensive report](#) that showed that the RWE Essent uses whole trees to annually produce the 750,000 tonnes of wood pellets at the wood pellet factory in Georgia (America), intended for the biomass plants in Europe. According to the 2013 [SOMO report](#), the Netherlands has subsequently become one of the world's largest consumers of solid biomass for electricity and the center for the import of biomass for supplying the rest of North-West Europe. The report shows that the vast majority - approximately 80% - of the biomass used for electricity production is imported into the Netherlands. The most important suppliers of biomass to the Netherlands in 2011 were the US (21%), Canada (18%), Russia and the Baltic States (11%), Southern Europe (10%), Western Europe (excluding the Netherlands - 5%), Oceania (2%), South Africa (1%) and other countries (11%, including small shipments from Brazil and Ghana). The largest consumers of solid biomass for electricity production in the Netherlands are the electricity companies RWE / Essent (727,073 tons per year), GDF Suez (452,168 t / y), Eneco (319,000 t / y), E.ON (200,000 t / y), EPZ (191,000 t / y) and Vattenfall / Nuon (56,664 t / y).

Mid-2017, NRDC and Dogwood Alliance published [an even more extensive study](#) in which they voiced a damning judgment about the Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) certification program of RWE Essent. The study also [cited a recent report from the European Commission](#) that validated NGOs' concerns and concluded that current EU imports of wood pellets from the Southeastern United States came from whole trees and other large-sized wood.

The report found that current E.U. imports from the southeast are dominated by wood pellets based on wood pulp (about 60 to 75 percent, mostly softwood) but also hardwood wood pulp. The European Commission's report also concluded that most of the wood that was checked did not meet the criteria to ensure a reduction in CO2 emissions. The same report confirmed that the increasing timber harvest causes direct and immediate losses of carbon stocks compared to the baseline and that additional harvests for wood pellets would degrade carbon stocks in the short term and that the long-term effects were uncertain.



Figure 14: The board of the Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) certification program mainly consists of financial stakeholders

Junginger was [a member of the Advisory Board](#) and is now a member of the Standards Committee of the controversial Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP). The SBP certification is intended to guarantee that the supply of biomass along the entire chain is processed in a sustainable manner, but was set up by RWE / Essent at the time. It is also a voluntary certificate and the vast majority of the SBP board has a financial interest in the production and / or burning of woody biomass including Schouwenberg from RWE Netherlands (see Figure 14). According to [the SBP LobbyFacts](#)¹, the SBP program used by the Dutch government to assure politicians and citizens that biomass is sustainable has not even spent ten thousand euros per year to bring this program to the attention of the European Union.

The LobbyFacts database indicates that more than 120 organizations are involved in the paid pro-biomass lobby at European institutions with a total amount between [33 and 39 million euros per year](#). The lobbying costs that the relevant organizations spend in the Netherlands are added to this. The difference between €39 million to lobby the production and burning of woody biomass and only €10,000 to promote sustainability certification is enormous in our opinion. More than half of the SBP's budget is spent on the salaries of directors and the advisory group. We have not been able to determine which part of this is paid to Martin Junginger or the Copernicus Institute.

In 2011, [Greenpeace published a report](#) on the [destructive effect](#) of the production of [wood pellets for RWE Essent](#). [Dogwood Alliance wrote a report at the end of 2012](#) that shows that RWE Essent uses non-certified biomass from whole trees from South-East America for the [production of its wood pellets](#). Biofuelwatch has also written an [extensive and destructive report on RWE Essent](#). Junginger indicated in his [inaugural speech on 8 September 2017](#) that biomass from the southeastern US is still not, or hardly, certified.

Every element in the biomass chain, from certification, harvesting, production, trade, transport to incineration and obtaining subsidies, is imbued with conflicts of interest. It is a shock to us that this is legal. We believe it is ethically irresponsible and reprehensible that the RWE/Essent engages in large-scale paid [greenwashing](#) for while they are demonstrably guilty of causing damage to our health, nature, the environment and therefore our future.

¹ [LobbyFacts](#) is a project by the [Corporate Europe Observatory](#) and [LobbyControl](#) and collects information from official sources, among which the [EU-transparency register](#).

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EDSP ECO is a non-profit foundation and consists entirely of volunteers who work with local and national initiatives and organizations to develop innovative sustainable technologies and solutions for the transition to a circular economy. With our research and project agency, we support organizations responsible for actions to protect the planet, end poverty or increase well-being. We provide support in the form of building and managing websites, conducting extensive research, setting up and offering digital campaigns, connecting stakeholders, giving public speeches and interviews and developing and rolling out environmentally friendly solutions. In addition, we actively focus on politicians and companies that contribute to pollution and climate change.

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Sources

Below we have included all the sources we referred to in our research into the paid pro-biomass lobby in the Netherlands. Many of the incriminating sources on the individuals or organizations involved in the paid pro-biomass lobby were no longer accessible on the websites of the relevant organizations. We have legally retrieved and secured those documents on the website: www.biomassmurder.org. These documents will serve as a reference for the many legal procedures that will follow in the coming years.

The Lobbyfacts database shows that more than 120 organizations involved in the European paid pro-biomass lobby together spend between 33 and 39 million euros per year:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2019-11-04-lobbyfacts-organizations-registered-as-paid-pro-biomass-lobby-in-european-institutions-english.pdf>

Lobby Facts examines the following topics: Who spends the most on lobbying? Is there a balance between corporate lobbying and the public interest? Do lobbyists spend more or less than the previous year? Which organizations have the most meetings with the elite of the Commission? Which organizations have the most lobbyist passes of the EU Parliament?

<https://lobbyfacts.eu/>

Corporate Europe Observatory exposes the power of corporate lobbying in the EU:

<https://corporateeurope.org/en>

Lobby control investigates the lobbying world of companies and politics:

<https://www.lobbycontrol.de/>

The transparency register has been set up to answer a number of important questions, such as whose interests are represented, by whom and with what budget. The transparency register is managed jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission:

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do>

Ministry of Economic Affairs 2004 on large-scale use of biomass:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2004-09-28-netherlands-biomass-action-plan-english.pdf>

IEA Bioenergy 2019 on the financing of biomass:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-04-03-iea-bioenergy-introduction-and-funding-annual-report-2018-english.pdf>

Lobbyfacts 2019, information about Uniper:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-11-03-uniper-lobby-facts-database-information-english.pdf>

Lobbyfacts 2019, information about Vattenfall:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-10-31-vattenfall-lobbyfacts-database-information-english.pdf>

Lobbyfacts 2019, information about RWE:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-10-31-rwe-ag-lobby-facts-database-information-english.pdf>

Lobbyfacts 2019, information about Veolia:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-10-14-veolia-lobbyfacts-database-information-english.pdf>

Lobbyfacts 2019, information about Engie:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-11-01-engie-lobby-facts-database-information-english.pdf>

Volkskrant 2012, "Peter Terium, the then CEO of Essent and current director of parent company RWE, informed de Volkskrant last year that he would not build the coal-fired power station in Eemshaven with today's knowledge."

<https://www.volkskrant.nl/nieuws-achtergrond/energiereus-rwe-moet-krimpen~b3b5b0cb/>

Follow the Money, 2012-2019, documentation on research into biomass combustion:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/research/lobby-facts.html#follow-the-money>

Memo consultation on Energy Report 2008 on, among other things, CO2 rights:

<http://biomassmurder.org/docs/2008-11-17-gov-nl-minez-verslag-van-notaoverleg-over-het-energiereport-2008-dutch.pdf>

Collection of and extracts from research into CO2 emissions from biomass combustion:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/research/carbon-dioxide.html>

Collection of news papers on biomass:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/news.html>

Uniper claims damages of 850 million:

<https://www.perssupport.nl/persbericht/21c16c10-3c2f-4943-8adf-e025b0156f9a/uniper-wil-compensatie-kolenexit-buiten-nederlandse-rechter-om>

Technisch Weekblad 2009, "Energy company Essent has announced that since 2001 three million tons of biomass have been used for the production of green electricity, sufficient for more than one and a half million households. A new milestone, says Essent. "

<https://www.technischweekblad.nl/nieuws/amercentrale-drie-miljoen-ton-biomassa-meegestookt>

Essent 2014, builds biomass power station in Cuijk:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2014-07-14-energiegids-essent-bouwt-aan-biobased-economy-park-dankzij-mep-en-sde-subsidie-vlaggenschip-bbe-dutch.pdf>

Essent MVO Jaarverslag 2010, Essent proud as a forerunner of biomass combustion in Europe. RWE Innogy invests approximately 120 million euros in a wood pelletizing factory in the US state of Georgia:

<http://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2010-05-04-rwe-essent-mvo-jaarverslag-2009-over-biomassa-en-kolencentrales-dutch.pdf>

Energy Valley 2011, Eemshaven switches to biomass combustion. Essent CEO Peter Terium claims that the Netherlands needs polluting coal-fired power stations:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2011-09-20-energyvalley-ceo-essent-zegt-nederland-heeft-de-kolencentrale-op-biomassa-in-de-eemshaven-nodig-dutch.pdf>

Description of the multiple involvement in the entire biomass combustion chain of Peter Paul Schouwenberg:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/research/lobby-facts.html#peter-paul-schouwenberg>

https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinciale_Noord-Brabantse_Electriciteits_Maatschappij

https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elektriciteits_Produktiemaatschappij_Zuid-Nederland

Bioenergy presentation in Cuijk, Martijn Wagenaar 2016, construction of the first Cuijk biomass power plant took place in 1999:

<http://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2016-09-30-rwe-essent-bio-energie-in-cuijk-dutch.pdf>

Technisch Weekblad 2009, Essent calls the burning of 3 million tons of biomass a green milestone:

<https://www.technischweekblad.nl/nieuws/amercentrale-drie-miljoen-ton-biomassa-meegestookt>

Energiegids 2014, biomass power plant Cuijk completely dependent on subsidies and deals with the government:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2014-07-14-energiegids-essent-bouwt-aan-biobased-economy-park-dankzij-mep-en-sde-subsidie-vlaggenschip-bbe-dutch.pdf>

RWE/Essent 2011, builds the world's largest biomass plant in Georgia, United States. They indicate that the timber supply in Europe is far from enough to supply the biomass combustion industry. The factory processes 1.5 million tons of pine wood per year:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2011-05-13-rwe-essent-commissions-worlds-largest-wood-pellet-factory-in-the-us-state-of-georgia-english.pdf>

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<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2012-09-12-biofuelwatch-sustainable-biomass-a-modern-myth-english.pdf>

Energy Valley, Essent CEO Peter Terium claims that the Netherlands needs polluting coal-fired power stations:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2011-09-20-energyvalley-ceo-essent-zegt-nederland-heeft-de-kolencentrale-op-biomassa-in-de-eemshaven-nodig-dutch.pdf>

ZIP file of reports prepared by scientists in collaboration with companies that earn from biomass and that are paid by those companies:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/iea-bioenergy-task-40.zip>

Presentation RWE / Essent, Peter-Paul Schouwenberg 2014, introduction of the Essent Green Gold Label:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2014-08-31-rwe-essent-nieuwe-energie-kennissessie-internationale-kansen-voor-biomassa-en-bio-energie-dutch.pdf>

Copernicus Institute, Martin Junginger 2007, Overview of the developments of certification of biomass, including the Essent Green Gold Label:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2007-07-06-utrecht-university-copernicus-institute-martin-junginger-overview-of-recent-developments-in-sustainable-biomass-certification-english.pdf>

Jacqueline Cramer was director of her own sustainability institute (USI) in 2012. This company, together with the Copernicus Institute, of which Cramer is also part, carried out the assignment of transforming RWE Essent on the Green Gold Label of RWE Essent into an Essent / RWE independent label (SBP) and to investigate this could be affiliated with the Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers (IWPB):

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2012-11-06-usi-utrecht-sustainability-institute-annual-report-2012-english.pdf>

Biofuelwatch 2013, Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers of GDF Suez and 5 other large companies set up a policy for “self” regulation of the tree cutting in order to convince policy makers. There is no means of control in the self-designed system:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2013-10-00-globalforestcoalition-biofuelwatch-wood-based-bioenergy-green-land-grabs-for-dirty-renewable-energy-english.pdf>

Volkskrant 2019, Tennet now also becomes a network manager of Essent:

<https://www.volkskrant.nl/economie/tennet-koopt-netwerk-essent~b8ffea1d/>

List of Certiq Participants' Council. Certiq provides the biomass certification for the energy companies and is a subsidiary of network manager Tennet. Certiq's board consists only of directors of energy companies, including Mr Schoutenberg of RWE Essent:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-10-16-certig-deelnemersraad-biomassa-certificering-dutch.pdf>

Presentation Wood Pellet Association of Canada 2013, presentative to the biomass sector on how to deal with NGO resistance to biomass:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2013-11-19-woodpellet-assn-ca-what-will-happen-to-our-industry-if-ngos-convince-regulators-that-wood-pellets-cause-climate-change-english.pdf>

RWE / Essent 2014, report on the large-scale use of biomass by Essent, chief responsible Peter-Paul Schouwenberg:

<http://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2014-03-00-rwe-essent-sustainable-development-eindrapportage-dutch.pdf>

In 2008, Peter-Paul Schouwenberg became director of biomass trading at Duferco with a turnover of 10 billion / year:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-11-18-duferco-energy-division-information-english.pdf>

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<https://www.volkskrant.nl/nieuws-achtergrond/buiten-de-branche-kent-niemand-nidera~b815d768/>

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<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-11-17-rbcn-rwe-essent-meet-the-board-english.pdf>

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<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2010-01-15-rbcn-rwe-essent-opzet-van-een-biomassa-commodity-exchange-dutch.pdf>

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<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2010-03-23-rbcn-rwe-essent-biowkk-bfp-ckade-projectgroep-biomassa-en-wkk-import-van-biomassa-dutch.pdf>

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<https://www.biomassmurder.org/research/lobby-facts.html#ronald-zwart>

Rotterdam Biomass Commodities Network (RBCN) was funded by the government through the Green Deal of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative (RCI):

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RWE/Essent 2010, first Biomass Trade and Power conference about a global biomass economy:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2010-03-10-biomass-trade-and-power-conference-english.pdf>

IEA Task 40 Bio-trade with members such as Peter-Paul Schouwenberg and Martin Junginger of the Copernicus Institute present a study of the worldwide trade in biomass. Collaboration with companies such as Drax, EON - UK (Uniper), Essent (RWE), and Electrabel (GDF SUEZ / ENGIE):

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2010-04-18-ieabioenergy-task40-world-bio-trade-equity-fund-study-english.pdf>

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<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2010-06-09-rwe-comparing-wood-essents-biomass-co-firing-plant-english.pdf>

IEA Bioenergy task 40 2012, the energy sector sets its own sustainability criteria with the "Initiative for Wood Pellets Buyers" (IWPB). The energy sector wants to convince policymakers that they are perfectly capable of deciding for themselves whether they are working sustainably:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2012-02-00-vito-implementation-of-sustainability-requirements-for-biofuels-and-bioenergy-and-related-issues-for-markets-and-trade-english.pdf>

The Initiative for Wood Pellets Buyers (IWPB) has been institutionalized as the Sustainable Biomass Partnership / Program (SBP). The SBP is therefore entirely drawn up by people who earn money from burning biomass:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2016-12-00-utrecht-university-copernicus-institute-challenges-and-apportunities-for-international-trade-in-forest-biomass-english.pdf>

Trouw 2011, Greenpeace blocks RWE / Essent coal-fired power station:

<https://www.trouw.nl/duurzaamheid-natuur/greenpeace-blokkeert-kolencentrale~bd206e69/>

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<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2011-12-13-rbcn-organiseert-symposium-over-economische-kansen-biobased-economy-persbericht-dutch.pdf>

RWE/Essent 2014, mobilizing (woody) biomass to get it in the energy agreement:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2014-07-03-rwe-essent-nederland-en-de-biobased-economy-hoe-mobiliseren-we-de-benodigde-houtachtige-biomassa-dutch.pdf>

Volkskrant 2016, Minister Cramer subsidizes coal-fired power stations, while it was always known how polluting they are:

<https://www.volkskrant.nl/nieuws-achtergrond/vier-redenen-waarom-vervuilende-kolencentrales-ooit-subsidie-kregen~b6040929/>

Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) 2011, Martin Junginger, member of the advisory board of the SBP (set up by the companies), writes for the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation the report on the use of biomass for energy generation:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2011-01-00-gov-nl-minez-copernicus-institute-trade-barriers-and-traded-volumes-of-sustainable-biomass-in-the-netherlands-english.pdf>

Eind 2012 publiceerde Dogwood Alliance een uitgebreid rapport waarmee ze aantoonde dat de RWE Essent hele bomen gebruikt bij het jaarlijks produceren van de 750.000 ton houtpellets in de houtpelletfabriek in Georgia (Amerika), bedoeld voor de biomassa centrales in Europa:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2012-11-13-dogwoodalliance-evidence-of-the-use-of-whole-trees-by-top-wood-pellet-exporters-from-the-us-south-to-europe-english.pdf>

Stichting Onderzoek Multinationale Ondernemingen (SOMO) 2013, report with figures provided by the energy sector itself, showing that since 2012 the Netherlands has become one of the world's largest consumers of solid biomass for electricity and an important pivot for the import of biomass for supplying the rest of northwestern Europe:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2013-06-00-somo-supply-chain-transparency-and-the-origin-of-solid-biomass-for-electricity-generation-in-the-netherlands-english.pdf>

Dogwood Alliance 2017, Sustainable Biomass Program smoke screen for forest destruction and corporate responsibility. Biomass certification is worth nothing because of lack of implementation and because it has been drawn up by the companies themselves:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2017-06-00-nrdc-dogwoodalliance-the-sustainable-biomass-program-smokescreen-for-forest-destruction-and-corporate-non-accountability-english.pdf>

Europese Commissie 2016, Cited that the concerns of the NGOs (Dogwood Alliance, Biofuelwatch, etc) validated and concluded that current E.U. wood pellet imports from the Southeastern United States came from whole trees and other large diameter timber:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8005fb30-81e9-4399-9b19-01af823fa42d>

Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) 2018, of the 9 persons responsible for the certification, 8 are from the biomass sector and thus all 8 are financially interested:

<https://biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2018-00-00-sbp-sustainable-biomass-program-annual-report-english.pdf>

[LobbyFacts](#) is a project by the [Corporate Europe Observatory](#) and [LobbyControl](#). It collects data from official resources, for example from the [EU-transparantieregister](#):

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-10-12-sbp-sustainable-biomass-program-lobbyfacts-database-information-english.pdf>

More than half of the SBP's budget is spent on the salaries of directors and the advisory group. We have not been able to find out how large the part is that is paid out to Martin Junginger or to the Copernicus Institute:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/lobbyfacts/2019-10-12-sbp-sustainable-biomass-program-financial-information-english.pdf>

Greenpeace 2011, report showing why biomass combustion is harmful to people, climate and forests:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2011-11-02-greenpeace-fueling-a-biomess-english.pdf>

Greenpeace 2011, Import wood pellets for biomass combustion destroy Canadian forests:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2011-11-02-greenpeace-import-houtpellets-voor-biomassa-vernietigt-canadese-bossen-dutch.pdf>

Greenpeace 2011, Essent tries to justify destruction of Canadian forests, Greenpeace dismisses Essent's criticism:

<https://www.biomassmurder.org/docs/2011-11-04-greenpeace-reactie-op-kritiek-van-rwe-essent-rapport-import-houtpellets-voor-biomassa-vernietigt-canadese-bossen-dutch.pdf>