

'BECCS Done Well' – Final response and commitments: Executive Summary



The need for carbon dioxide removals (CDRs) to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, offset hard to abate emissions, and accelerate the pace of emissions reductions is well-established. The Drax approach to CDRs – Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) – is a proven, scalable solution capable of producing renewable power while capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂).

How will Drax ensure it does BECCS well?

In early 2022, the company commissioned an independent inquiry from Jonathon Porritt, environmental campaigner and co-founder of Forum for the Future.

After engaging with expert witnesses, NGOs and others, the inquiry's final report set out 30 'BECCS Done Well' conditions for Drax to meet.

Drax published its full and final response in April 2024, grouping the conditions into six themes. This Executive Summary provides an overview of how Drax is achieving its sustainability goals while delivering climate, nature, and people positive outcomes.

1. Biomass

Drax policies and processes ensure it sources all biomass to verified standards for sustainability. Key commitments include:

- To avoid damaging or destroying forests with high biodiversity or high carbon stores.
- To certify biomass to appropriate standards, such as those the Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) sets out, and to work towards 100% SBP certification for its pellets.
- To only source from forest landscapes with stable or growing carbon stocks.
- To invest in the data management systems required to deliver accurate, real-time information about sourcing and compliance.

2. Climate Positive Outcomes

Drax maximises the 'net negativity' of BECCS by setting high CO₂ capture rates and decarbonising the BECCS operation and value chain. Key commitments include:

- To only sell CDRs that are net of the BECCS value chain emissions.
- To strive for a minimum capture rate of 95%.
- To ensure the CO₂ captured from BECCS is not used in enhanced oil recovery.
- To set corporate level targets, validated by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), and develop additional targets to achieve corporate net zero by 2040.

3. Nature Positive Outcomes

Drax recognises the growing need for companies to contribute towards a nature positive future. Key commitments include:

- To set out requirements for protecting sensitive ecological features and biodiversity, and for mitigating impacts on forest ecosystems.
- To promote requirements for forest, nature and biodiversity protection and enhancements through third-party certification schemes.
- To disclose the company's nature impacts and dependencies through the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) Framework, using the framework to further develop the metrics.

4. People Positive Outcomes

Drax will work hard to realise positive impacts on neighbours, communities and colleagues while reducing negative impacts. Key commitments include:

- To become an exemplary operator in addressing issues of environmental justice and in contributing to a just energy transition.
- To further develop a global Community Strategy encompassing charitable giving, community engagement programmes, and opportunities for colleague engagement.
- To launch Community Advisory Panels in all BECCS locations.

5. Transparency and Governance

Drax will engage in proactive and transparent monitoring, reporting and disclosure. It will use frameworks such as the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and TNFD, as well as all applicable regulatory requirements. Key commitments include:

- To transparently report and regularly disclose, for example, its certification of pellets and feedstocks, and its progress on decarbonisation.
- To go beyond reporting requirements by publishing findings from the Drax Catchment Area Analyses that look at carbon impacts in sourcing areas.
- To continue listing environmental and social metrics in its Annual Report and, when BECCS is operational, to disclose additional BECCS-specific metrics.

6. Science

Drax is informed by science and will listen to stakeholder feedback. It routinely engages with academics, NGOs and industry bodies to assess the breadth and robustness of scientific evidence. Key commitments include:

- To improve the company's understanding of the existing science and promote research to fill any gaps in scientific understanding in topics relevant to BECCS.
- To seek advice and evidence from the Drax Independent Advisory Board (IAB), which focuses on the science underpinning biomass sustainability.
- To maintain a live, evolving source of knowledge in a publicly-available Evidence Hub.

'BECCS Done Well' has prompted detailed discussions within Drax about how to best embed sustainability in project design and raw material supply. It has also helped the company prioritise the needs for its ongoing consideration and development.

We hope this document shows we are listening to our stakeholders - including CDR customers - and their interests. Some of the issues presented by the 'BECCS Done Well' process will not be solved quickly or by Drax alone. However, the company's final response demonstrates how it will approach these issues and play its part in the wider global challenge of mitigating climate change.

See the full version of the company's final response to 'BECCS Done Well' on the Drax website or scan the QR code below.

