



# **CONSULTATION REPORT**

## **Appendix J Non-statutory consultation report and supporting materials**

### **Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage**

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations, 2009 - Regulation 5(2)(q)

Document Reference Number: 5.1.10

Applicant: Drax Power Limited

PINS Reference: EN010120



REVISION: 01

DATE: May 2022

DOCUMENT OWNER: D. Kennedy

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PUBLIC

## J1 - Non-statutory Consultation Report



# Drax Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage Non-Statutory Consultation Report March 2021

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## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Executive summary .....   | 4  |
| Consultations through COVID-19 .....  | 6  |
| North Yorkshire County Council's Statement of Community<br>Involvement (SCI) (section 11.0 Pre-application Consultation)..... | 6  |
| Government advice on consultations during COVID-19.....   | 7  |
| Promotion of the consultation.....  | 8  |
| Flyer mail out .....  | 8  |
| Letter and briefing with stakeholders .....   | 10 |
| Social media posts and advertising .....  | 10 |
| Media .....   | 12 |
| Consultation process.....   | 13 |
| How we received feedback .....  | 13 |
| Feedback received .....   | 15 |
| Analysis of feedback.....   | 17 |
| Addressing consultee feedback .....   | 19 |
| Conclusion .....  | 21 |

# Executive Summary





## Executive summary

This report has been prepared by Grayling Engage on behalf of Drax Power Limited (Drax), which has recently completed a non-statutory consultation for a proposed DCO application for the development of a Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) at its power station near Selby, North Yorkshire. A statutory consultation, the second phase of Drax's pre-application public consultation, is planned for Autumn 2021.

The consultation has been delivered in partnership with Drax, Grayling Engage, WSP and Pinsent Masons to provide initial feedback on the proposal to create 'BECCS at Drax'.

### The proposal

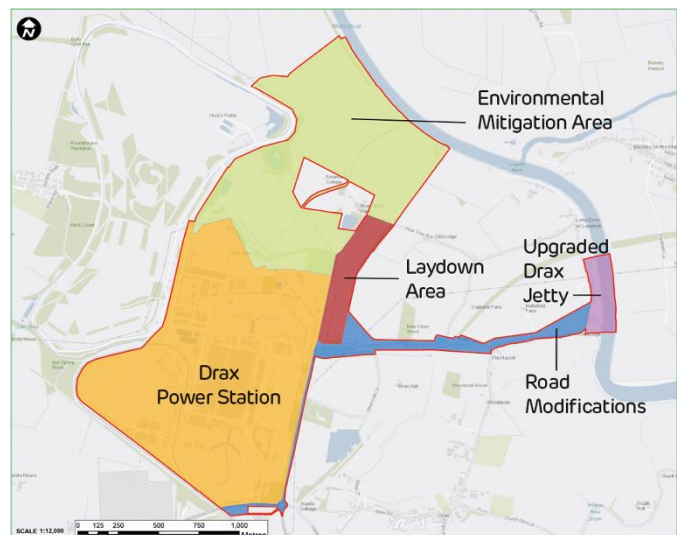
BECCS is an innovative technology that has been developed to permanently remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The negative emissions and renewable power produced by BECCS are both vital to efforts in addressing the climate crisis.

Drax's existing biomass units already use biomass sourced from sustainably managed forests to generate electricity. With BECCS at Drax, the carbon dioxide that is emitted as part of the energy generation from biomass will be captured using carbon capture technology. That carbon dioxide will then be transported via a pipeline and then safely stored in geological storage offshore, under the seabed. Both the pipeline and storage elements are separate projects and will be subject to separate planning applications.

The four existing biomass units at Drax Power Station are converted pulverised fuel boilers, capable of burning different biomass fuels. Drax plans on installing post-combustion amine carbon capture technology on up to two of the 660 MWe biomass power generating units. This will remove up to 95% of the carbon dioxide from the flue gas that is currently emitted by those units.

The carbon capture infrastructure forming part of the proposed scheme will sit within the footprint of Drax's current site, in particular the current power generating units, cooling water systems, and main stack. There is some land outside of Drax Power Station Site which would be used temporarily during construction and some land to the north of the Drax Power Station Site which may be used for environmental mitigation.

There may also be works undertaken to upgrade the existing Drax Jetty and to allow the transportation of large loads to Drax during construction. That may require modifications to Redhouse Lane, Carr Lane and New Road between the existing Drax Jetty and Drax Power Station to enable Drax to use these routes.



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## Our consultation plan

To guarantee that these plans truly work for the local area and community, Drax is delivering a comprehensive two-phase public pre-application consultation to gauge local residents' and stakeholders' views on the proposed scheme.

The pre-application consultation will take place in two phases, with a first non-statutory consultation that took place between Monday 1 March and Sunday 28 March 2021, and the second statutory consultation planned to take place in Autumn 2021.

## Results of the phase one consultation

Due to the government restrictions that were in place because of COVID-19, the first non-statutory consultation was held online via a dedicated website that displayed information about the proposed scheme and encouraged people to share their views on it.

The overview of the first consultation phase in figures are:

- **Overall visitors to the consultation website: 966**
- **Total responses to the consultation: 36**
- **Support: 10 (27% of responses)**
- **Oppose: 2 (5% of responses)**

Whilst all feedback received during this consultation was incorporated into this report, it was notable that across the course of the consultation there was considerable engagement with the website, but only 3.7% of consultees who visited the site responded to the consultation with feedback or questions.

Responses to this consultation were recorded by the online feedback form, emails, telephone calls, three live chat events and a face-to-face drop-in video session allowed the community to ask questions to the project team and receive answers in real time.

The consultation was advertised by several methods including a flyer that was delivered to 6,801 surrounding properties, print advertising in the local newspapers Selby Times and Goole Times ahead of the consultation and via social media. A letter was also sent to 239 statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, including local elected members, informing them of the consultation.

From the consultation feedback, only 2 responses received (5% of responses) said that they did not support the proposed scheme. There were 10 responses in total (27% of responses) in favour of the proposed scheme, including letters from Selby District Council, City of York Council and York and North Yorkshire LEP. 7 responses were made via the online feedback form, 'strongly supporting' the proposed scheme.

On the whole, the responses were generally supportive or neutral towards the principle of BECCS and Drax's ambition to become carbon negative. However, there were concerns raised over the reliability of the proposed scheme to ensure carbon dioxide will not escape from storage and impact of the eventual construction works. A common theme was an interest in the BECCS technology, how it fits into the wider Zero Carbon Humber project and the sustainability of biomass. Zero Carbon Humber is a

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partnership to build the world's first net zero industrial cluster and decarbonise the North of England. The Humber is the most carbon intensive industrial cluster in the country, emitting 12.4 million tonnes a year.

Developing carbon capture usage and storage (CCS or CCUS) and low carbon hydrogen (H2) technology and shared regional infrastructure in Yorkshire and the Humber would preserve jobs by enabling energy intensive industries to continue to operate and thrive whilst decarbonising against a backdrop of ever tighter emissions targets linked to the UK's carbon budgets.

## Consultations through COVID-19

Given the pandemic, our priority was to ensure that as many people as possible could take part in the consultation. Consequently, following guidance from North Yorkshire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement and the Government's advice on DCO consultations during COVID-19, Drax decided to run a digital consultation with support for any individuals who had any problems with being able to view information about the proposed scheme online.

### **North Yorkshire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (section 11.0 Pre-application Consultation)**

The current SCI was adopted in 2013 and it hasn't been updated to reflect changes to planning legislation, policy and guidance to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the implications for planning-related consultations. However, it remains relevant to this consultation. The key points from the SCI are outlined below (Section 11 - Pre-application Consultation):

- *11.1 Community involvement before an application is submitted is encouraged by central government. Early community engagement can help identify new issues, help allay concerns, and allow for amendments to the proposals before formal submissions which can speed up the planning application process. However, the Council recognises that pre-submission consultation may not always be possible due to practical, timescale and financial restraints.*
- *11.2 The Council will encourage prospective applications for major or sensitive development to carry out pre-submission publicity and consultation with the local community. While the methods to be used will be at the discretion of the applicant, the Council will encourage the use of such methods as public meetings, public exhibitions and presentations, presentations to Parish Councils, leaflet drops and publicity in local media. Applicants are encouraged to take into account any feedback received when finalising their proposals.*
- *11.3 Whilst it is not possible to specify in detail which type of application should be accompanied by pre-submission publicity, the Council would generally expect all applicants for new mineral working and the establishment of significant new waste management facilities to carry out some form of pre-submission publicity and to provide details of publicity undertaken within their application.*



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## Government advice on consultations during COVID-19

Government guidance around consultation during COVID-19 was adhered to at every stage of the consultation process. By pursuing multiple engagement methods, we met the guidance for the Planning Inspectorate set out by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in his statement *Virtual working and planning – Responding to Covid – 19 Restrictions* on 13 May 2020.

- *“Local planning authorities (and applicants of EIA development under the TCPA) now have the flexibility to take other reasonable steps to publicise applications if they cannot discharge the specific requirements for site notices, neighbour notifications or newspaper publicity. These steps will notify people who are likely to have an interest in the application and indicate where further information about it can be viewed online. These steps can include the use of social media and other electronic communications and must be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development.”*

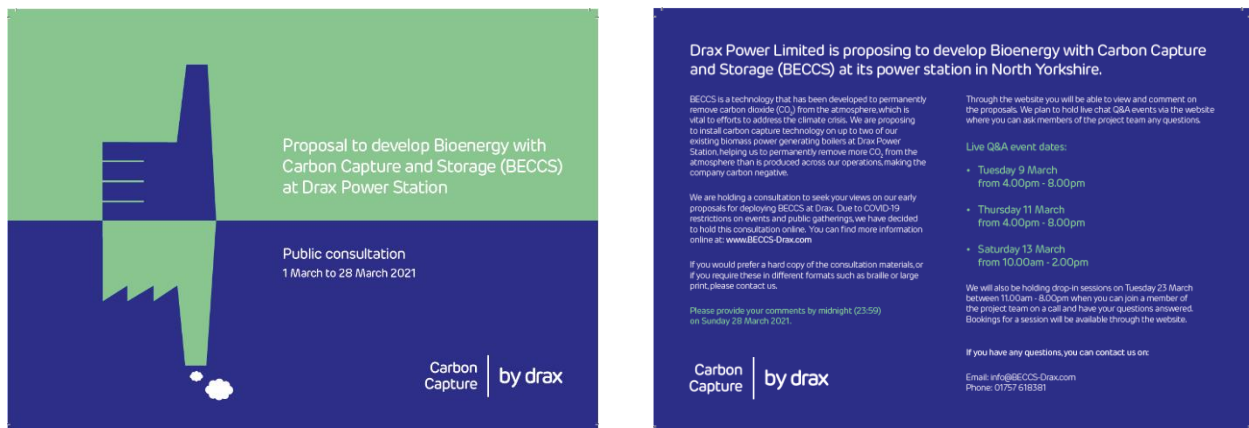
## Promotion of the consultation

Given the pandemic and guidance from local and national government, the public consultation took place virtually on the website <https://beccs-drax.com/>. As with any consultation, it was critically important to ensure that residents, stakeholders, and community groups were aware of the plans and the upcoming consultation in good time, particularly those harder to reach audiences. Information about the plans was shared via a variety of mediums to reach as many people as possible.

### Flyer mail out

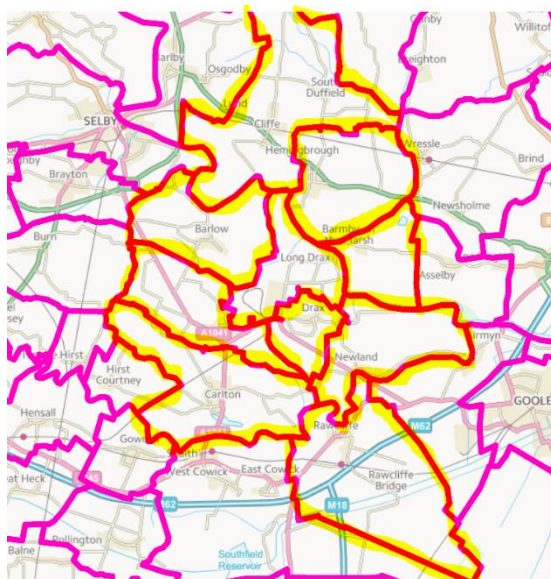
To advertise the consultation to communities neighbouring the Drax Power Station, we sent a hardcopy flyer providing details of Drax's proposal and how to take part in the online consultation. We purposely used plain English copy.

For anyone who was unable to access the online consultation, the flyer provided contact details for the project team who were available to support them with either guidance on how to access the website or provide hard copies of the details of the consultation through the post.



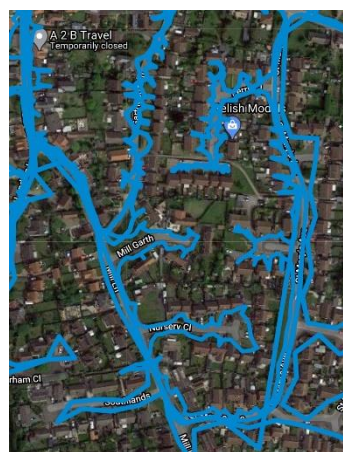
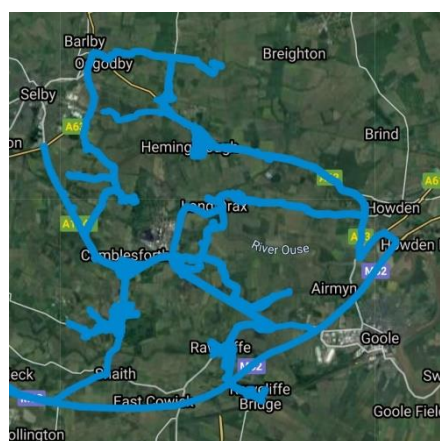
The flyer

The map below highlights the area where the flyers were delivered the week before the launch of the consultation. In total, 6,801 properties received the flyer.



*Map showing target area for flyer mail out*

To ensure that every address received a flyer to advertise the consultation we used satellite tracking software to monitor the delivery of the flyers. The below maps are the tracking report we created to highlight where the flyer was delivered.



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## Letter and briefing with stakeholders

To promote the consultation, we contacted statutory consultees, including local authorities, government agencies and heritage organisations such as Historic England. In addition, our specialists also reached out to officers in statutory organisations, and we have started to hold formal pre-application meetings with those organisations.

To ensure wider engagement we also contacted political non-statutory stakeholders beyond the immediate vicinity of the site including parish councils, district councils, county councils and local MPs such as Nigel Adams, David Davis and Andrew Percy. Non-political non-statutory stakeholders were also contacted, these included Age UK, Salvation Army, Selby District Vision and Selby Deaf Hub. In total, 239 emails and letters were sent out to all stakeholder groups.

In addition, on the 22 March 2021, Drax held a Parish Council Liaison meeting in which the below stakeholders were briefed on the proposed scheme. In the briefing the Parish Councils remained neutral and asked questions regarding its part in the wider Zero Carbon Humber project.

- Dave Perry - Drax Parish Council
- Roger Turnbull – Long Drax Parish Council
- Shirley Sinclair – Barlby & Osgodby Parish Council
- Michelle Thorpe – Newland Parish Council
- Tim Clayton – Carlton Parish Council
- Anne Handley – Rawcliffe Parish Council & East Riding Council (Ward Councillor)
- Andrew Holman – Cliffe Parish Council
- Stephanie Coleman – Camblesforth Parish Council
- Mike Jordan – North Yorkshire County Council & Selby District Council (Ward Councillor)
- Annette Markot – Gowdall Parish Council
- Jan Strelczenie – Hemingbrough Parish Council
- Ian Chilvers – Brayton Parish Council
- Jacquie Keelan – Barlow Parish Council

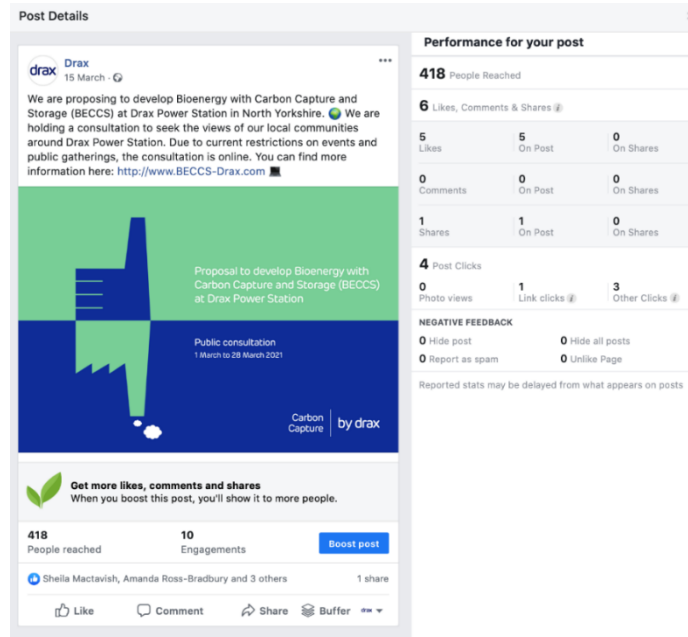
## Social media posts and advertising

In addition to traditional promotion methods, the Drax social media team utilised social media to drive people to the website. To do this, posts were shared on Drax's social media channels and deployed social media adverts that specifically targeted local communities. Given the high levels of its consumption by the local population, and the digital nature of our consultation, social media was a critical tool at our disposal.

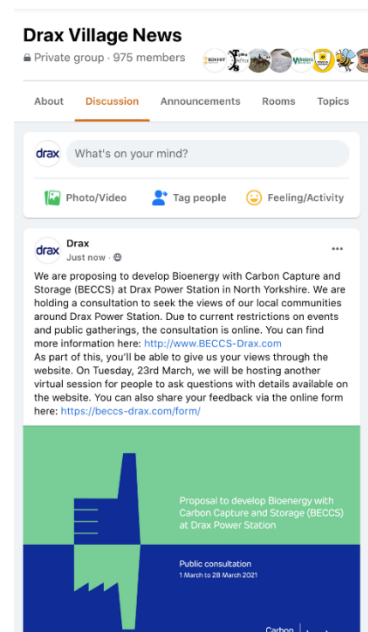
Advertising took place predominantly via Facebook due to its use among a wide range of demographics and its increasing use by many as virtual village community noticeboards through community groups. We also advertised via Twitter, helping us to reach a wider range of interested parties, including those with an interest in engineering and climate change, and younger users.

Our social media activity consisted of:

- Publishing a Facebook advert from Drax, which in the final week of the consultation had reached 7,260 people in the target postcode area and had gained 145 link clicks to the consultation (see a screen grab below).



- Publishing a series of posts detailing the consultation on Drax's Facebook page. The three posts reached 2,083 people in total.
- Sharing social media posts advertising the consultation on 5 Facebook local community group pages, including Drax Village News and Save Our Selby. In total, over 27,475 local people were reached (see an example right).
- Sharing three posts advertising the consultation on Drax's Twitter page. Overall, they reached 5,108 people.





## Media

We utilised both PR and advertising to publicise the consultation in media. Ahead of the consultation, two tailored press releases were released to over 45 titles. One press release was designed for local newspapers and included dates and times for live chat sessions, driving local residents to our consultation sessions. A second shorter press release was sent to national and energy trade titles announcing the beginning of the planning process. 18 titles covered the news of the consultations, reaching an online readership of 6.7 million in total, including 559,000 through regional and local titles.

The proposed scheme was also highlighted in the regular 'wrap around' that Drax has with the Selby Times and Goole Times during the first week of the consultation.

In addition to editorial, we also advertised the details of the consultation in page three of local print newspapers, the Goole Times and the Selby Times, which together have a reach of 14,584 people. This helped ensure that we reached local residents that were not on social media but consumed 'traditional' print media.

### DRAX KICKSTARTS BECCS PLANNING PROCESS

Drax is to kickstart the planning process for its proposals to build ground-breaking negative emissions technology, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), marking a major milestone in the project.

The energy company has already transformed its power station near Selby in North Yorkshire to become the largest decarbonisation project in Europe having converted it to use sustainable biomass instead of coal.

Now it has ambitions to go further by using BECCS to permanently remove millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year from the atmosphere and create a negative carbon footprint for the company.

In order to deploy this cutting edge, negative emissions technology, required in order for the UK to meet its net zero target, Drax must secure a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the government – a process which takes around two years to complete and begins with a public consultation.

Will Gardiner, Drax Group CEO said: "Kickstarting the DCO process this March is a landmark moment in deploying BECCS at Drax and delivering against our ambition to be a carbon negative company by 2030.

"At Drax we are very proud of the great strides already made in transforming the business to become the UK's largest single site renewable power generator, producing enough renewable electricity for up to four million homes and protecting thousands of jobs in the process.

"With BECCS we can go even further - we will be permanently removing millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and making a significant contribution to efforts to address the climate emergency, whilst creating thousands of new jobs and supporting a post-covid, economic recovery."

If successful in its DCO application, and subject to the right investment framework from government, work to build Drax's first two BECCS units could get underway in 2024, ready to start capturing and storing up to eight million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year from 2027 – delivering the UK's largest carbon capture project.

People can provide comments on Drax's proposals for BECCS via the project website at [include web address](#) throughout March.

Due to covid restrictions, consultation events will take place online with members of the public able to find out more and provide comments on the proposals via live QA and chat events on:

- o Tuesday March 9, 4pm to 8pm
- o Thursday March 11, 4pm to 8pm
- o Saturday March 13, 10am to 2pm

Individual calls can also be booked with a member of the project team, on Tuesday March 23, via the website. The deadline for comments on the proposals is midnight on Sunday March 28, 2021.

The feedback will be used to inform more detailed plans which will be subject to a statutory consultation later in the year with final plans submitted to the planning Inspectorate in 2022.

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"The Town Council appreciate the sensitivity of what tributes each person chooses to place on loved ones graves and that not everyone would make the same choice. Because of this, Council reached the decision that the Cemetery Rules and Regulations would define the type of memorial tributes that would not be allowed on the graves.

"Fences are also prohibited as these are likely to cause the interference of ground maintenance and grass cutting. This is to ensure the cemetery is a place for everyone to feel comfortable in. Some other councils policies are far stricter."

## Freeze passed

get papers, the Labour re unhappy meilts we e laded a 1.5 / from April

"With issues surrounding Universal Credit and so much uncertainty with a lot of people having to use foodbanks, we'd have preferred housing rents also to be frozen. That would seem fairer to us. We will not be voting against the motion though, because we believe the tax freeze is still a positive step from the council."

ut that this impact those comes or pandemic. Nichols said: understand e of things, d that the same way are in this, generally on roughed at

After councillors voted through the budget, the leader of Selby District Council, Cllr Mark Crane, said that the tax freeze was just one of the measures put in place to help residents during the pandemic.

He said: "We understand that 2020/21 has been a difficult year for many of our residents and their families, and we want to help ease the burden where we can."

"Despite the financial challenges we face, we're in good shape as we take a long-term view of our money and make sure we plan well ahead."

shaviour at reported directly to the police. They urge anyone experiencing anti-social behaviour to call 101 as soon as possible, detailing the exact location and descriptions of those sighted.

Police officers will be conducting patrols in the Staynor Hall area and taking action to promptly deal with any anti-social behaviour they encounter.



### Proposal to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) at Drax Power Station

BECCS is a technology that has been developed to permanently remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, which is vital to efforts to address the climate crisis.

We are proposing to install carbon capture technology on up to two of our existing biomass power generating boilers at Drax Power Station.

We are holding a consultation to seek your views on our early proposals for deploying BECCS at Drax. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we have decided to hold this consultation online at [www.BECCS-Drax.com](#).

As part of this digital consultation, you'll be able to give us your views through the website and ask questions.

#### Live Q&A events:

- Tuesday 9 March from 4.00pm - 8.00pm
- Thursday 11 March from 4.00pm - 8.00pm
- Saturday 13 March from 10.00am - 2.00pm

We will also be holding drop-in sessions on Tuesday 23 March between 11.00am - 8.00pm, when you can join a member of the project team on a call and have your questions answered. Bookings for a session will be available through the website.

Email us: [info@BECCS-Drax.com](#)  
Call us: 01757 618381

Carbon Capture by drax

*A press release shared with Selby Times and Goole Times, alongside an image of the consultation advert in page three of their print edition.*

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## Consultation process

### How we received feedback

Through planning the consultation, we wanted to ensure everyone who wanted to provide feedback could do so without any difficulties. We designed the website to have a detailed, yet user-friendly feedback form that asked a series of questions for participants to provide their views. We also had a dedicated email address and telephone number that anyone could use to contact the project team. Although the consultation was held online, we did not want this to exclude anyone, so we ensured through our flyers, press releases and adverts that we made it clear that anyone who could not take part online were able to participate by getting in touch with us to arrange for a consultation pack to be sent to them via mail.

Through the website we also held three live chat sessions where anyone could speak directly to the project team using a live chat function. We also held a video drop-in session, which allowed consultees to speak directly with a member of the project team.

Across the different mediums, we had the following number of participants between Monday 1 March and Sunday 28 March 2021:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Overall unique website visitors            | 966 |
| Responses to the feedback form online      | 9   |
| Email enquiries received                   | 8   |
| Letters received                           | 4   |
| Live chat & drop-in session participants   | 13  |
| Telephone enquiries                        | 1   |
| Requests for help as no access to internet | 1   |

To ensure complete accessibility for all residents, we used the flyer, that was distributed to 6,801 properties, to offer anyone who could not access the digital consultation to contact the team to receive support.

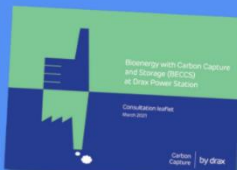
To replicate the experience of attending a physical consultation event, we developed a digital exhibition (open for the duration of the consultation, that was complemented by the live chat function. This allowed participants to review the digital exhibition boards and ask questions to the project team in a similar way to how they could at a physical event. Any questions that we were unable to answer on the chat, were sent via email to consultees within 48 hours.

## Digital exhibition

Please view our digital exhibition below. Using your mouse, trackpad or swiping on your mobile device you can rotate your perspective to view our proposals. To zoom in use your scroll-wheel or pinch on your mobile device.

If you would like to view a PDF of the information presented, please [click here](#) (size 7mb).

We have also produced a leaflet that explains the proposal. If you would like to view the leaflet, please [click here](#).



Our digital exhibition

To ensure that this feature was accessible to as many people as possible, we held them over three four-hour sessions across three days at different times. Details of when they took place are below:

- Tuesday 9 March, 4pm to 8pm
- Thursday 11 March, 4pm to 8pm
- Saturday 13 March, 10am to 2pm

We also held a video drop-in session on Tuesday 23 March, where consultees had the opportunity to speak to a member of the team directly. The public could book a half an hour session between 12pm to 5pm.

In total 13 individuals took part in the live chats and drop-in session asking questions and providing comments on the consultation.

## Feedback received

The feedback form, comments sent through email and via live chat were recorded via Grayling's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The feedback below was collated via the survey form on the website that was received over the four-week period. We have created an aggregate score from the users, which shows how many times each topic was mentioned on all consultation platforms and ranked the issues in order of importance:

| ISSUES   | SCORE | IMPORTANCE      |
|--|-------|-----------------|
| AIR QUALITY                                    | 40    | Most important  |
| GREENHOUSE GASES                               | 40    |                 |
| INNOVATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE | 39    |                 |
| NEED FOR NEGATIVE EMISSIONS                    | 38    |                 |
| NOISE IMPACTS                                  | 36    |                 |
| WATER IMPACTS                                  | 36    |                 |
| TRANSPORT                                      | 36    |                 |
| ECOLOGY  | 34    |                 |
| MATERIALS AND WASTE                            | 34    |                 |
| CREATING JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH              | 33    |                 |
| LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACTS                   | 33    |                 |
| SOCIOECONOMICS                                 | 32    |                 |
| HERITAGE                                       | 31    |                 |
| GROUND CONDITIONS                              | 27    |                 |
| OTHER IMPACTS                                  | 13    | Least important |

The following questions were also asked in the survey:

### 1. Do you support Drax's ambition to become carbon negative?

| Strongly support | Support | Unsure | Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Total Support | Total Oppose |
|------------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 7                | 0       | 1      | 1      | 0               | 7             | 1            |

## 2. Do you support the proposals to develop BECCS?

| Strongly support | Support | Unsure | Oppose | Strongly Oppose | Total Support | Total Oppose |
|------------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 7                | 0       | 1      | 0      | 1               | 7             | 1            |

## 3. Did you find all the information you needed?

| Yes | Unsure | No |
|-----|--------|----|
| 5   | 1      | 3  |

## 4. How was your experience of the consultation?

| Good | Unsure | Bad |
|------|--------|-----|
| 5    | 4      | 0   |

## Statutory feedback

Over the course of the first phase of the public consultation, we received the several letters and emails containing feedback from statutory and non-statutory bodies. These are summarised below:

### City of York Council – Support

The City of York Council supports the proposed scheme, stating that:

*“The proposed development at Drax to deliver 100% Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) is in line with our Climate Emergency declaration and ambition for York to be net-zero carbon by 2030.”*

### Selby District Council – Support

Selby District Council stated that they supported the proposed scheme and expressed approval at the potential economic benefits of the proposed scheme:

*“We welcome this ground-breaking project that would remove millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, putting the District and Drax at the heart of the governments’ Plans for a Green Industrial Revolution.”*

### York and North Yorkshire LEP – Support

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) expressed strong support for BECCS at Drax stating that:



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*"The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership are pleased to strongly support the proposals for BECCS at Drax and look forward to working closely with the team to help expand the project's impact into the wider York and North Yorkshire region."*

### **North York Moors National Park Authority – Neutral**

The national park authority's response was neutral and raised a question regarding whether the BECCS development would lead to increases of non- carbon dioxide emissions.

*"Given the long-range scale of impact of Drax on European sites, exceeding 1% of nitrogen deposition (based on 2016-2018 data) even at sites well outside the normal 10km buffer (the NYM SAC is roughly 40miles from Drax at the nearest point) it would be helpful if the Environmental Statement considered potential impacts of the development through alterations in the emissions profile on designated site in the wider area, including the North York Moors SAC and SPA."*

### **Other non-statutory organisations**

#### **Biofuelwatch – Against**

On Monday 29 March, following the closure of first phase of the public consultation, environmental organisation Biofuelwatch stated that it 'strongly disagrees' with the concept of BECCS and submitted a list of the environmental questions. Although this was submitted after the consultation closed, the project team will consider their submission ahead of the next phase of the proposed scheme.

### **Feedback on the consultation methods**

#### **Positive feedback examples**

- *"Thank you so much. Good idea to run these sessions".*
- *"I'm impressed with the speed of response on the chat".*
- *"Advertising has also been good".*
- *"I like the way [the digital exhibition] looks. It makes it clear what this is trying to replicate".*
- *"It was helpful".*
- *"I do like the instant messenger format".*

#### **Constructive/negative feedback examples**

- *"I was expecting to be able to see other people questions, worries and your responses to them."*
- *"It is good to do things online so people can see your ideas and proposals, but then it needs to be face-to-face".*
- *"I think there is high value in meeting the Drax team face to face at an exhibition".*

### **Analysis of feedback**

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While we only received 36 responses via the website, email, letters and consultation events, it was clear to see that many more viewed the information about the proposed scheme online but did not feel the need to comment on the proposed scheme.

In total, we received 966 individual visitors to the site during the consultation period, who did not provide feedback or raise any questions on the proposed scheme, which shows that there was a high level of interest for the proposed scheme with minimal opposition. Overall, of the feedback that we received, 10 responses were supportive and only one person and one group opposed the proposed scheme.

### A breakdown of the figures

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Overall unique visitors to the consultation website:</b> | 966  |
| <b>Total responses to the consultation:</b>                 | 37   |
| <b>Response rate:</b>                                       | 3.7%   |
| <b>Supportive responses:</b>                                | 10 (including 7 via website and 3 statutory letters) |
| <b>Supportive responses as a percentage:</b>                | 27%  |
| <b>Opposing responses:</b>                                  | 2 (including 1 via website and 1 email)              |
| <b>Opposing responses as a percentage:</b>                  | 5%   |

### The key concerns and interests of consultees

#### Primary concerns/interests

- **Safety** – some respondents expressed anxiety of Drax's ability to ensure carbon dioxide will not escape from the pipeline and issues surrounding the use of other pollutants such as ammonium.
- **Air quality**. Consultees queried whether BECCS would lead to improved local air quality.
- **Noise pollution** – some respondents expressed concerns over the noise of the construction works and asked what would be done to manage disruption.
- **BECCS process** – respondents asked about the BECCS technology and its role in combatting climate change, how the carbon dioxide will be stored, and the wider Zero Carbon Humber partnership.

#### Secondary concerns/interests

- **Economic impact** – a handful of respondents were curious about the business opportunities that would arise because of the proposed scheme and how this would impact local and national companies.
- **Wildlife** – a few respondents were concerned about the impact of the carbon dioxide pipeline and the Proposed Scheme on wildlife in the surrounding area.
- **Biomass** – respondents asked questions concerning the biomass units and the sustainability of its sourcing.
- **Funding** – some respondents asked how the proposed scheme would be funded and the criteria of the funding.

- **Technologies** – some respondents were concerned about the use of technology across the proposed scheme and BECCS technology and the challenges that could arise from the use of new technologies.

## How feedback has helped shaped the proposed scheme

Feedback from residents, stakeholders, and local politicians in this first phase of consultation has provided insight on how Drax can address consultees' concerns on a variety of issues as the proposed scheme develops, as well as shaping the statutory phase of the public consultation.

| Topic                  | Feedback   | Response   |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Safety</b>          | Some respondents expressed worries over the reliability of Drax and the BECCS technology in ensuring no carbon dioxide escapes from storage or transportation.   | Safety is an utmost priority for Drax and will be central to the designs of the carbon dioxide capture and transmission systems.<br><br>During the statutory consultation it will be important to include ample information on the reliability of the technology and examples of where it has been successful.   |
| <b>Noise pollution</b> | Consultees expressed concerns over the noise of the construction works, and what is being done to manage disruption  | Drax will ensure a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan is prepared by the contractor and approved by the local planning authority prior to any works commencing.   |
| <b>Economic impact</b> | A few respondents were curious about the business opportunities that would arise from the proposed scheme and how this would impact local and national companies | Developing BECCS at Drax will spearhead a new world-leading green industry for Yorkshire and the Humber, which already supports 360,000 jobs, and will help to create new tens of thousands of jobs. Drax's coal to biomass conversion generates £600m for the UK's Northern Economy and supports 5,700 jobs across the region and £433m in GDP throughout the UK economy. Our supply chain supports 7,000 jobs across the UK, with almost 3,500 jobs supported in Yorkshire and the Humber. Drax is working with Government, trade unions and industrial businesses in the North to improve education, employability, and opportunity to boost skills and jobs for a zero-carbon economy. |
| <b>Carbon dioxide</b>  | Respondents expressed concerns on how the carbon   | Consents for the carbon dioxide pipeline and storage will be sought by a separate  |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>storage and pipeline</b>                            | will be stored and transported.  | developer and will not form part of Drax's DCO for BECCS at Drax.   |
| <b>Sustainable forestry</b>                            | Consultees wanted to know how the forests that Drax were sourcing biomass from were sustainable.   | <p>Ensuring that the forests that we source our biomass from is sustainable remains one of our top priorities. Drax's biomass units already use biomass sourced from renewable forests to generate electricity as they absorb carbon dioxide while growing and are replanted or naturally regenerate; this helps to ensure forests remain for future generations.</p> <p>Drax will continue to provide information on this during the statutory consultation process.</p> |
| <b>Wildlife</b>  | Respondents were concerned about the impact of the carbon dioxide pipeline and the proposed scheme on wildlife in the surrounding area.                        | <p>This proposed scheme does not include the carbon dioxide pipeline, and this will be subject to a separate application.</p> <p>As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we will assess the likely significant effects of BECCS at Drax on sensitive ecological receptors. Drax will provide further details on this during the statutory consultation phase</p>  |
| <b>Air quality</b>                                     | We received numerous concerns relating to the impact on air quality in the local area, with questions relating to both the construction and operational phase. | We will assess the likely significant effects of BECCS at Drax on air quality. This will include consideration of emissions of dust and other particulates during construction, as well as emissions from the operation of the BECCS at Drax. Further details on this will be provided during the statutory consultation phase.   |
| <b>Landscape and visual impact</b>                     | Residents raised questions relating to the visual impact of the new facility and how this will affect the current landscape.                                   | We will consider the likely significant effects of BECCS at Drax on the landscape character and visual amenity of the area. Further information will be available at the statutory consultation phase.  |
| <b>BECCS process and wider Zero Carbon Humber plan</b> | Respondents asked about the BECCS technology, how the carbon dioxide will be stored, and the wider Zero Carbon Humber partnership.                             | Drax will ensure further details on this will be available during the statutory consultation period.  |
| <b>Biomass</b>   | Respondents asked questions concerning the biomass units and its sourcing.   | Drax will provide further details on this during the statutory consultation period. However, it is important to note that the biomass units at Drax Power Station are already consented and operational.  |
| <b>Route</b>   | A consultee wanted to understand the route of the carbon dioxide pipeline.   | We explained that we did not have this information to hand, as it is not part of this application.  |

|                     |  |   |
|---------------------|--|---|
| <b>Funding</b>      | A consultee wanted to know how the proposed scheme would be funded and the criteria of the funding.  | Funding for the proposed scheme and support mechanisms are currently being explored both with the UK government and private companies as BECCS delivers negative emissions and carbon removals. We will provide further details on this during the statutory consultation period. |
| <b>Technologies</b> | We received several detailed questions from consultants based in India and Scotland who wanted to understand details about the technology. They were concerned about the use of BECCS technology, though these questions were not relevant to this stage of the DCO process. | Drax will provide examples of where this technology has previously been used successfully during the statutory consultation. We will continue to answer any sector specific questions about the technology if/when they are raised.   |

## Conclusion


The rationale for BECCS at Drax is compelling. As well as presenting a realistic opportunity to make a significant contribution to the UK's net zero effort, it is also a catalyst for economic growth in the North and a showpiece of British-led innovation. The proposed scheme that Drax has consulted on, as part of its first phase of consultation, comprised of an introduction to BECCS and a relatively detailed overview of the proposed scheme. By consulting online, via a dedicated website, we also overcame the challenges associated with COVID-19 restrictions on physical meetings.

Our primary objective of this consultation was to engage with the community neighbouring Drax Power Station and ensure that everyone had the opportunity to take part, learn about the proposed scheme at an early stage and to understand current views and concerns, as well as areas of interest to feed into the following statutory consultation. This is why we utilised a variety of the communication channels to reach as many people as possible – from extensive use of social media to physical flyer mailouts to media advertising and PR. To ensure that every property received an invitation flyer to participate in the consultation we utilised satellite navigation tracking to monitor the delivery of the 6,801 flyers to each door and following the conclusion of the deliveries we did not receive any feedback that any home had not received a flyer. We also approached almost 240 stakeholders directly to introduce the proposed scheme and inform them of the consultation.

Our dedicated consultation website was visited by 966 unique website users representing a strong interest in the scheme from local people. Whilst we did achieve successful engagement through the feedback form and our live chat sessions (in total the consultation received 36 responses), this was only a fraction of the overall number of residents and stakeholders who viewed the plans. Given the number of people who viewed the plans and very small number of responders, we can say that there are a significant number of residents and stakeholder who do not feel strongly about the plans and received adequate information through the consultation materials.



J2 - Non-Statutory Consultation Leaflet - March 2021

A stylized illustration of a power station chimney. The chimney is dark blue above the horizontal line and light green below. It has three horizontal lines on the left side. At the bottom, there are two white cloud-like shapes.

# Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) at Drax Power Station

Consultation leaflet  
March 2021

Carbon  
Capture

by drax

## Introduction

**Drax Power Limited (“Drax”) is proposing to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) within its existing plant in North Yorkshire.**

BECCS is a technology that has been developed to remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. At Drax Power Station we use biomass sourced from growing forests to generate renewable electricity. With BECCS we will then capture the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted during power generation, permanently removing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than is produced throughout the process - creating what is known as negative emissions.

The UK needs negative emissions technologies to help combat the global climate crisis and meet its legally binding net zero by 2050 target. Negative emissions are a vital part of a solution that also includes decarbonising all sectors of the economy, deploying more renewables, hydrogen and electric vehicles as well as improving energy efficiency and changing the way we live.

We are holding a consultation to seek your views on our early proposals for BECCS at Drax. We have set out the vision behind our proposals, the key elements of BECCS at Drax and information on how we will continue to develop our proposals. Your views at this early stage are important to us. You can find more information in this leaflet and online. We will also be holding online events throughout the consultation period where you can speak to the team about our proposals.

**This consultation runs from 1 March 2021 (09:00) to 28 March 2021 (23:59). You can provide your comments at [www.BECCS-Drax.com](http://www.BECCS-Drax.com)**

As BECCS at Drax progresses and we assess the proposed scheme in more detail, we will hold another consultation to get your further feedback.

it's time to look  
**to the North.**



Carbon  
Capture

| by drax

## What is BECCS at Drax?

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Drax Power Station currently has four biomass generating units, capable of using different biomass fuels to produce renewable electricity. We are proposing to install carbon capture technology on up to two of these biomass power generating units. This will remove up to 95% of the CO<sub>2</sub> from the gas emitted from those two units. This CO<sub>2</sub> would then be transported and stored safely underground in geological storage under the seabed which will be developed as a separate project. Further detail is provided in this leaflet about how the carbon capture technology works and the key elements of BECCS at Drax.

We began to pilot the first BECCS project at Drax Power Station in October 2018, which successfully captured carbon in early 2019. A second BECCS pilot facility was installed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries within the North Yorkshire power plant's carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) incubation area in autumn 2020. This has helped us gain a further understanding of developing negative emission technology.



# Looking forward

Drax has a long history of responding to the UK's energy needs in innovative and adaptive ways. The power station has already been transformed to become the largest decarbonisation project in Europe having converted four of its generating units to use sustainable biomass instead of coal.

2003

Drax Power Station starts co-firing biomass a renewable energy alternative to coal



2012

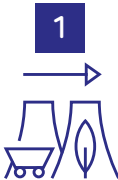


Drax fully commits to transforming the business into a mainly biomass-fuelled generator using compressed wood pellets in place of coal

It plans to upgrade the three generating units that came online in the early 1970s

2013

The first of three power generating units is fully converted to use compressed wood pellets in April



2014



The second power generating unit is upgraded to biomass in May

Drax Completes construction of four large storage domes used to house the biomass supply

Each is bigger than the Royal Albert Hall, can safely hold 75,000 tonnes of high-density wood pellets

2016

The third power generating unit is fully upgraded to biomass



2018

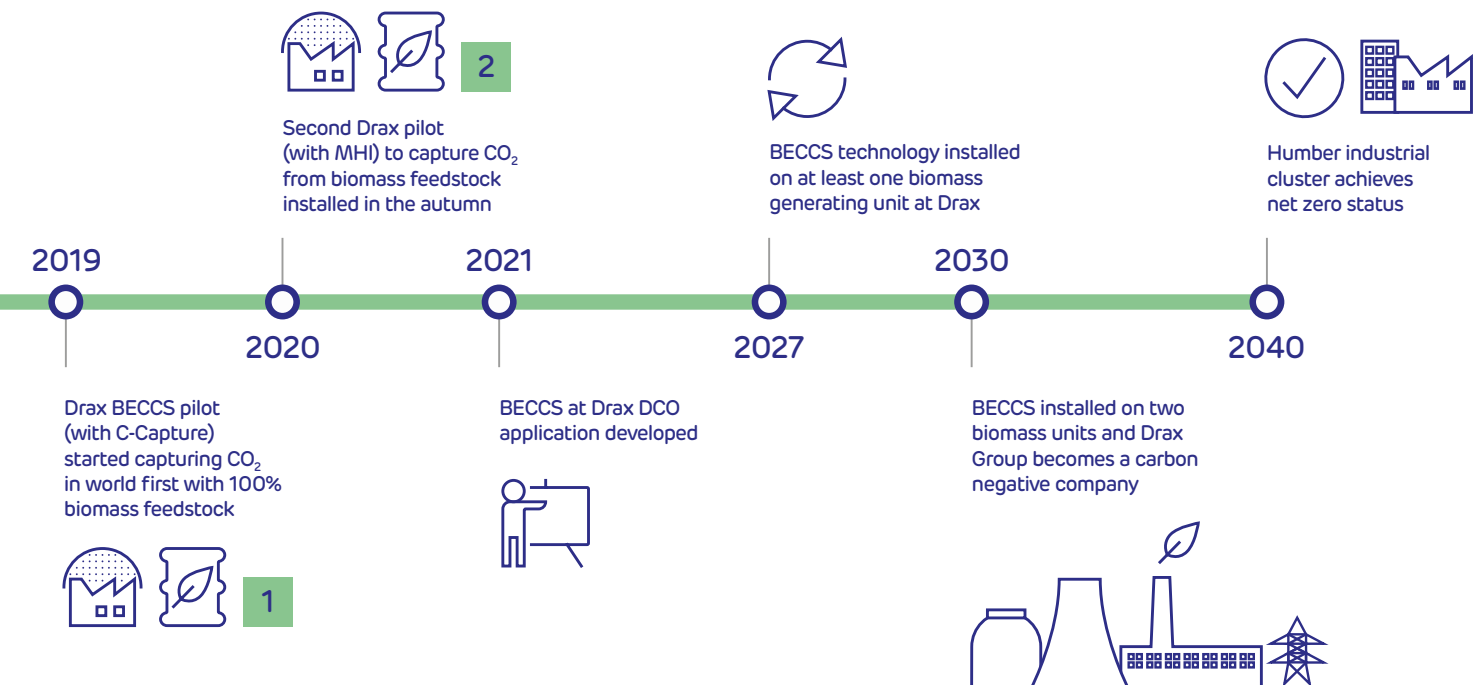


Fourth coal unit is converted to biomass



By deploying BECCS technology, Drax will pioneer cutting edge technologies which permanently remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere creating a negative carbon footprint for the company. BECCS is the only negative emissions technology currently available which produces the reliable, renewable

electricity the UK needs in a decarbonising economy whilst delivering negative emissions. Developing BECCS at Drax will also support and create thousands of jobs, helping to deliver a post-covid economic recovery.



## Our vision

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The UK government has a legally binding target to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, compared with the previous target of at least 80% reduction from 1990 levels.

The Government's Energy White Paper highlighted key areas for a green industrial revolution and the transition process for reaching the net zero goal. Experts including the Climate Change Committee agree that negative emissions technologies, including BECCS, are essential to meet net zero targets by 2050.

### Our vision is established on three core pillars:

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#### **Negative emissions from BECCS are essential for the UK to achieve its legally binding net zero by 2050 target.**

Developing negative emissions technologies, like BECCS, is vital if we are to deliver for the environment and the economy. Drax has been and will continue to be at the heart of innovation and decarbonisation of the UK's energy system. As a result of our initial trials, Drax became the first power generator in the world to capture CO<sub>2</sub> from a 100% biomass feedstock using BECCS. Drax's ambition is to use BECCS at scale and become a carbon negative company by 2030, supporting global efforts to address the climate crisis and the UK's net zero target.

The first phase of BECCS at Drax Power Station could remove up to 8 million tonnes of carbon per year - around 40% of the Climate Change Committee's 2050 target for BECCS with power in the UK. In doing so, Drax aims to become a carbon negative company by 2030.

#### **Our proposals will provide an avenue for jobs and economic growth across the Humber and North Yorkshire region.**

BECCS at Drax will create and support thousands of jobs in the region, in construction, as well as across the supply chain and in some longer term operational roles.

The Humber region already supports 360,000 jobs, and cutting edge green energy technologies could boost skills, and create and support tens of thousands more.

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#### **BECCS at Drax positions the UK as a global leader in developing innovative technologies needed in the fight against climate change.**

Developing BECCS at Drax would put the UK at the forefront of developing and exporting a vital technology that will be needed around the world to combat climate change. The UK is pursuing carbon capture technologies (alongside the EU, Norway, Canada, Australia, Japan, China and the US) which will attract global investment as an industry of the future.

## How does BECCS work?

BECCS uses innovative technologies to process energy generated from biomass whilst also capturing and storing the carbon dioxide that is created as part of that process.

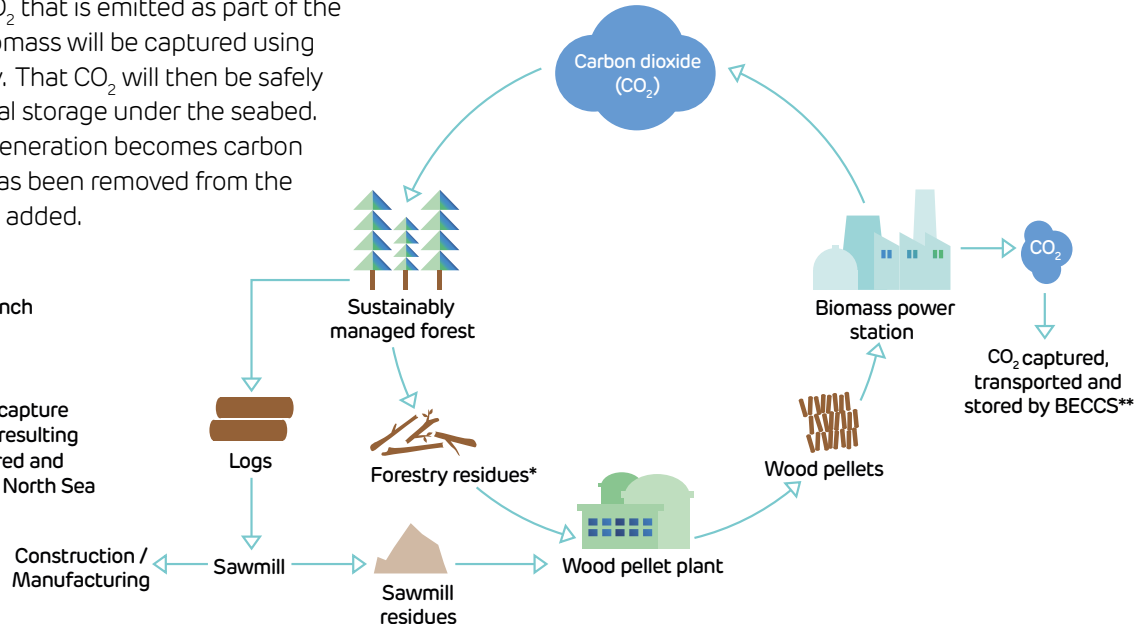
Drax's biomass units already use biomass sourced from sustainably managed forests to generate electricity. The forests used to create biomass absorb CO<sub>2</sub> while growing.

With BECCS at Drax, the CO<sub>2</sub> that is emitted as part of the energy generation from biomass will be captured using carbon capture technology. That CO<sub>2</sub> will then be safely stored offshore in geological storage under the seabed. The process of electricity generation becomes carbon negative, as more carbon has been removed from the atmosphere than has been added.

For BECCS at Drax, the CO<sub>2</sub> captured will be transported via the proposed National Grid Ventures pipeline for compression and permanent storage deep under the seabed. The transport and storage infrastructure will be developed as separate projects.

\* Forestry residues includes branch tops and bark, thinnings and low-grade roundwood

\*\* BECCS is a bioenergy, carbon capture and storage system, with CO<sub>2</sub> resulting from power generation captured and stored in an aquifer under the North Sea



## Sustainable energy generation

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Since converting four generating units to use sustainable biomass instead of coal, Drax has transformed the power station to become the largest decarbonisation project in Europe and the biggest single site renewable power generator in the UK, producing enough renewable electricity for up to four million households. This has resulted in carbon savings of more than 85%, playing an important part in the decarbonisation of Britain's power system.

### Drax Sustainability Policy

Sustainability of the biomass we use is a fundamental part of our business. Our biomass complies with stringent standards set out in UK and EU law. Our sustainable biomass sourcing policy goes beyond existing regulations and is led by science, best practice and transparency.

We recognise the importance of keeping forests thriving, and we work to ensure our supplies abide by key principles, including:

- significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to coal-fired generation;
- supporting local communities and contributing to social well-being;



- strengthening biodiversity where possible, and not adversely affect protected or vulnerable biodiversity

You can find more information on our sustainability policy at:  
**[www.drax.com/sustainability/sustainability-policy](http://www.drax.com/sustainability/sustainability-policy)**

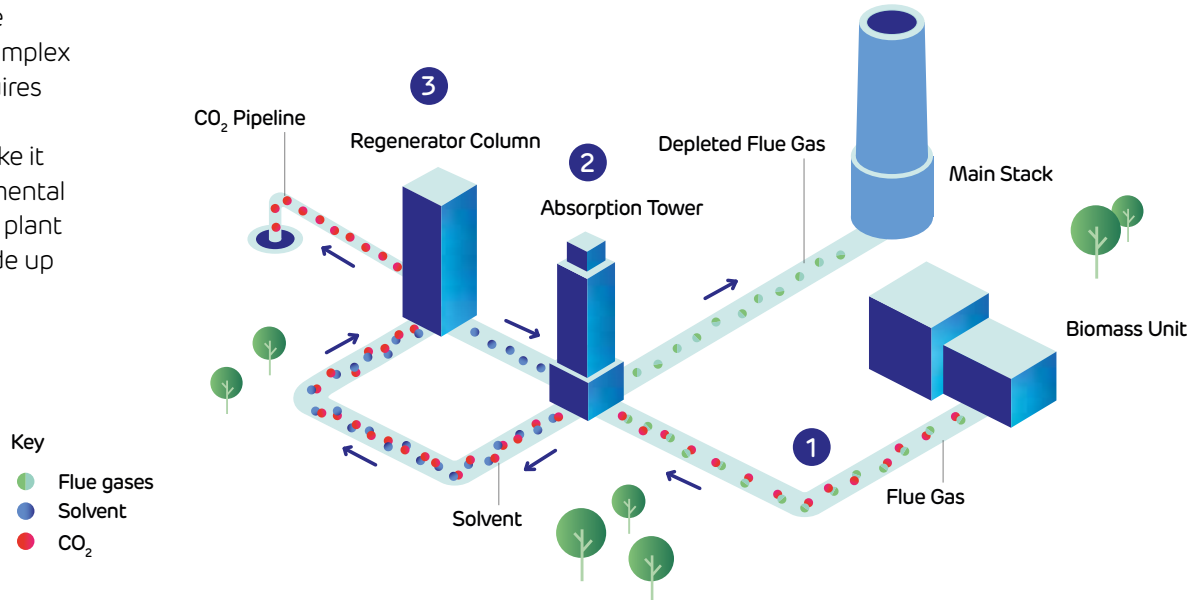
**We would like to hear your thoughts on BECCS and our vision for BECCS at Drax.**

**You can provide feedback online at [www.BECCS-Drax.com](http://www.BECCS-Drax.com)**

**If you are unable to access the website, please get in touch and we will provide you with an alternative method.**

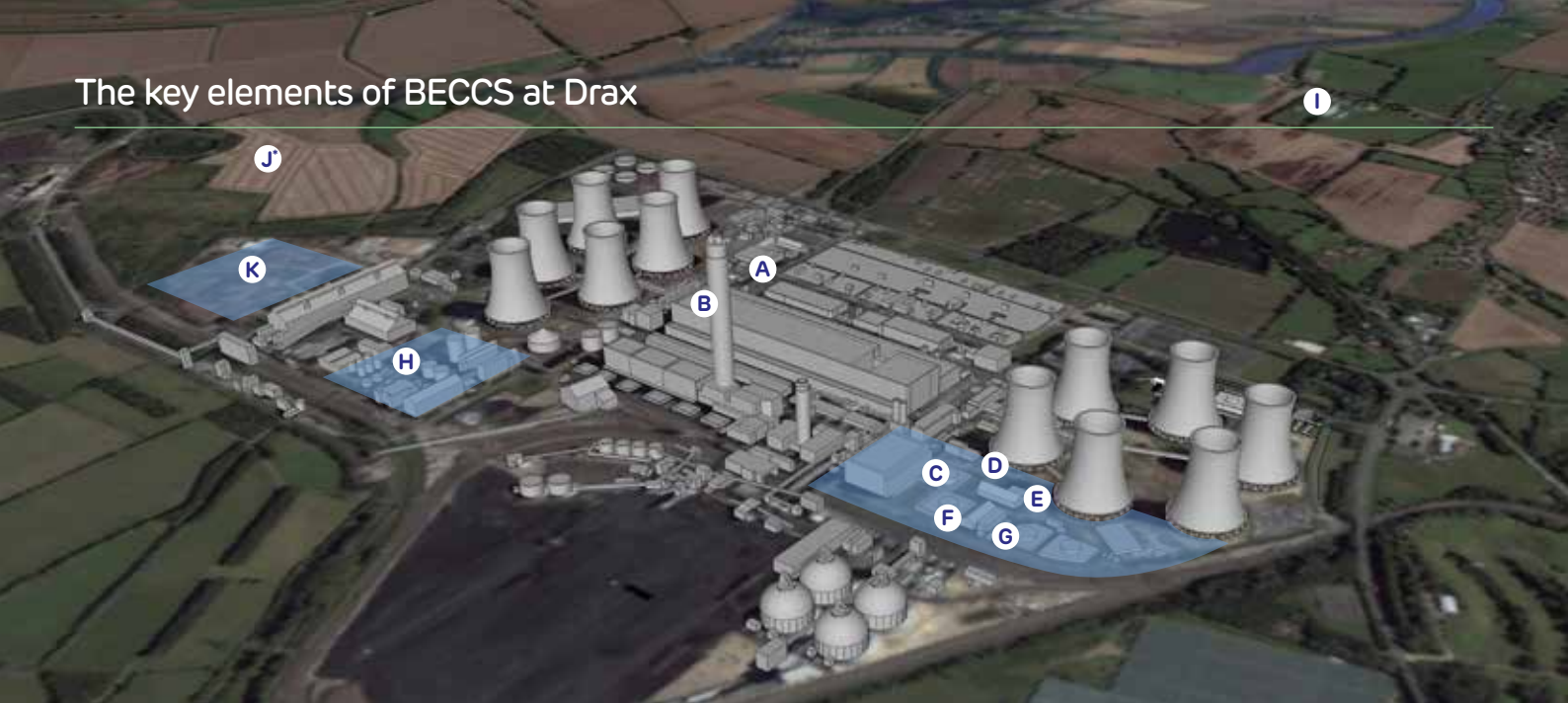
# Carbon capture technology

Our carbon capture technology uses complex processes and requires several technical components to make it usable. The fundamental aspects of the new plant equipment are made up of the following:




- 1 A flue gas pre-treatment section:** flue gases are the gases which would usually be released into the atmosphere as part of the power generation process. This pre-treatment section will remove pollutants from the gas before the CO<sub>2</sub> is extracted
- 2 An absorber column:** to extract the CO<sub>2</sub> from the flue gas, a chemical reaction is started within the absorber column, using an amine solvent (this is a compound of ammonia)
- 3 An enhanced regenerator column (or re-boiler):** the solvent which contains the CO<sub>2</sub> is then re-heated in the re-boiler, separating the CO<sub>2</sub> from the solvent. The solvent is recovered so that it can be re-used

# The key elements of BECCS at Drax



## Key:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A</b> National grid substation                         | <b>H</b> Carbon Capture Wastewater Treatment Plant   |
| <b>B</b> Main stack                                       | <b>I</b> Drax Jetty  |
| <b>C</b> Flue gas pre-treatment section                   | <b>J</b> Environmental mitigation area<br>*Please see overleaf for further details on the extent of this area                      |
| <b>D</b> Absorber Column(s)                               | <b>K</b> Compression zone  |
| <b>E</b> Enhanced regenerator column(s)<br>(or re-boiler) |  Areas where BECCS technology could be installed |
| <b>F</b> Filtration and reclamation system                |  |
| <b>G</b> Solvent storage and system make-up               |  |

For BECCS at Drax, the carbon capture technology would be installed and integrated within the existing buildings and site, in particular the current power generating units, cooling water systems, and main stack.

The carbon capture technology includes key elements that will be used to capture the CO<sub>2</sub> from the energy production process.



## Other key elements of BECCS at Drax

**A filtration and reclamation system:** this technology will continuously remove any additional contaminants from the flue gas and add into the amine solvent which helps lengthen the lifespan of the equipment.

**Solvent storage and system make-up:** these systems will be used to provide the suitable conditions for the transportation and permanent storage of the CO<sub>2</sub>.

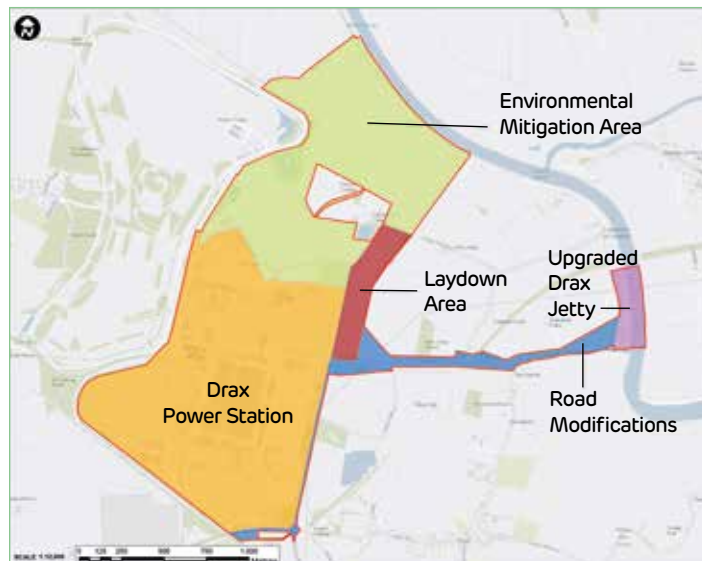
**A new Carbon Capture Wastewater Treatment Plant:** as part of the carbon capture process, 'condensate' (a wastewater by-product) is recovered from the process, treated and re-used.

**Drax Jetty upgrade:** we are investigating whether it would be cost effective and environmentally beneficial to upgrade the facility at the existing Drax Jetty to help transport of abnormal loads during construction. We may also seek to modify Redhouse Lane, Carr Lane and New Road between the existing Drax Jetty and Drax Power Station to enable us to use these routes. We have also included for a construction laydown area in our proposals which would be used for construction offices, warehouses, workshops, open air storage areas and car parking. This laydown area would be reinstated to its original use following completion of all construction works.

**Environmental mitigation area:** this land to the north of Drax Power Station has been identified as a potential area for environmental mitigation. This is largely agricultural land. We are not proposing to build any new infrastructure on this land.

**Compression zone:** in this area, the CO<sub>2</sub> will be compressed so that it is ready for transport by pipeline for storage in safe underground deposits.

**Connection to National Grid Venture's pipeline:** following capture and treatment, the CO<sub>2</sub> will be transported via pipeline for permanent storage. This pipeline will be developed by National Grid Ventures as a separate project. Drax is working closely with National Grid Ventures to define where the pipeline will connect to Drax Power Station.



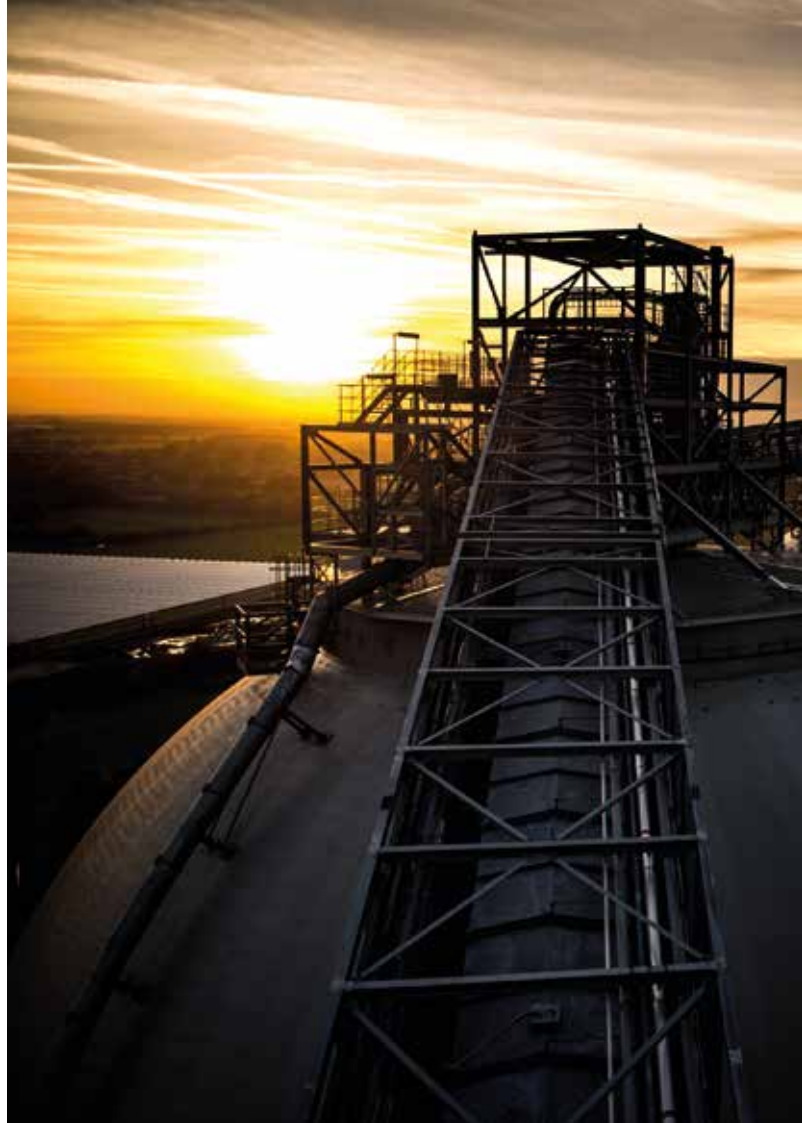
## Environmental impacts

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We will be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which considers the potential impacts of BECCS at Drax and how we could reduce or mitigate any significant adverse impacts.

We will be looking at the landscape and visual impacts, air quality, and ecology in the local area and other environmental factors that could be affected by our proposals.

As we continue to develop BECCS at Drax we will provide more detail on our environmental assessments as well as our thinking on how we can minimise or mitigate any adverse environmental impacts.



# Environmental impacts

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Our comprehensive EIA will cover a wide variety of potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. Here are some of the topics that we will be looking into:

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## Landscape and visual impacts

We will consider the impact of BECCS at Drax on the landscape character of the area, as well as views from residential properties, recreational trails and Public Rights of Way, as well as local road users.

Our assessment will look to reduce any disturbance to the local landscape and local views as a result of any construction, or the operation of BECCS at Drax.

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## Ecology

We will assess the impacts of BECCS at Drax on local designated habitats and notable species. Locally important and designated sites include Special Areas of Conservation and Local Wildlife Sites.

Following previous ecological assessments in the area, we anticipate that notable species will include bats, badgers, water voles and otters, among others. As part of our assessments, we will consider opportunities for ecological enhancement, as well as mitigation of impacts.

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## Air quality

We will assess the impacts of BECCS at Drax on air quality. This will include consideration of emissions of dust and other particulates during construction, as well as emissions from the operation of the BECCS at Drax. Best practice construction measures will be followed to ensure the emissions of dust and other particles are minimised.

Existing pollution control measures at the Drax Power Station will ensure that operational emissions meet the limits set out within the Industrial Emissions Directive.

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## Water impacts

Our assessments will consider impacts on the water environment, including surface water and groundwater bodies (such as the River Ouse), as well as drainage and flooding.

Where necessary, we will include appropriate mitigation measures as part of our proposals, such as pollution prevention controls, to reduce any short- and long-term impacts.

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## Noise impacts

Our noise impact assessment will consider the effects of construction and operation noise on residential properties, schools and places of worship within the local area, as well as on local habitats and ecology.

Once we have assessed the impacts, we will consider the need to include noise mitigation measures.

**Our EIA will also consider the following topics: socioeconomics, transport, heritage, ground conditions, materials and waste, greenhouse gases and major accidents and disasters.**

**We will be providing further detail on the progress of our EIA, including preliminary findings from our assessment, at the next consultation. If you have any questions about our assessments, or if there are any topics which are of particular interest to you, you can provide feedback online at: [www.BECCS-Drax.com](http://www.BECCS-Drax.com)**

# The planning process

As BECCS at Drax is an extension to an existing power station with a generating capacity of more than 50MW (i.e.the existing biomass units at Drax),it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008.

Its construction and operation therefore requires a planning permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO), granted by the Secretary of State.

**An indicative timeline for seeking development consent for BECCS at Drax can be found here:**

## Project timetable/key milestones

We intend to submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate (who administers applications under the Planning Act 2008) in 2022 and before we do,you will get another chance to give us your views as we will hold another consultation.


If accepted,an examining authority would undertake an independent public examination of the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business,Energy and Industrial Strategy,who will make the final decision as to whether to grant permission for BECCS at Drax. You will have the opportunity to be involved in the examination stages as well.

| Q1/Q2 2021   | Q3 2021   | Q1 2022   | Q2/Q3 2022   | Q4 2022/ Q1 2023   | Q1/Q2 2023  | Q3 2023  | 2027   |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Environmental scoping complete</li><li>- First consultation events (non-statutory)</li><li>- Liaising with local councils, landowners and other statutory consultees</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Statutory period of consultation including consultation on the change to Preliminary Environmental Impact Report</li><li>- Publication of Statement of Community Consultation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Submission of the DCO application</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pre-examination period</li><li>- Notice of preliminary meeting</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Examination period</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Decision making and recommendation period</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Decision made by Secretary of State for BEIS</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Commercial Operation</li></ul> |

## Providing feedback

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We would like to hear your feedback on our early proposals, including any queries or concerns you may have. Your views are important to us and will help to inform our proposals as we continue to develop the proposed scheme.

The consultation will run between 1 March 2021 and 28 March 2021. **Please provide your comments by 23:59 on the 28 March 2021.** You can do this by completing our online survey which you can find at 

We will be holding three live Q&A events as part of this consultation. This will give you the opportunity to hear more about the proposals and discuss your views directly with members of the project team on our online one-to-one chat function. You don't need to book ahead, you simply need to go to our website during the event times and register, you will then be able to use the chat function.

### Live Q&A event dates:

- **Tuesday 9 March from 4.00pm - 8.00pm**
- **Thursday 11 March from 4.00pm - 8.00pm**
- **Saturday 13 March from 10.00am - 2.00pm**

We will also be holding drop-in sessions on Tuesday 23 March from 11.00am - 8.00pm when you can join a member of the project team on a call and have your questions answered. You can find details on how to book a session on our website or by contacting us by email or phone.

If you would like a hard copy version of this leaflet or other materials you find online, you can contact us using the details below. This leaflet can also be made available in large print format, braille or other languages.

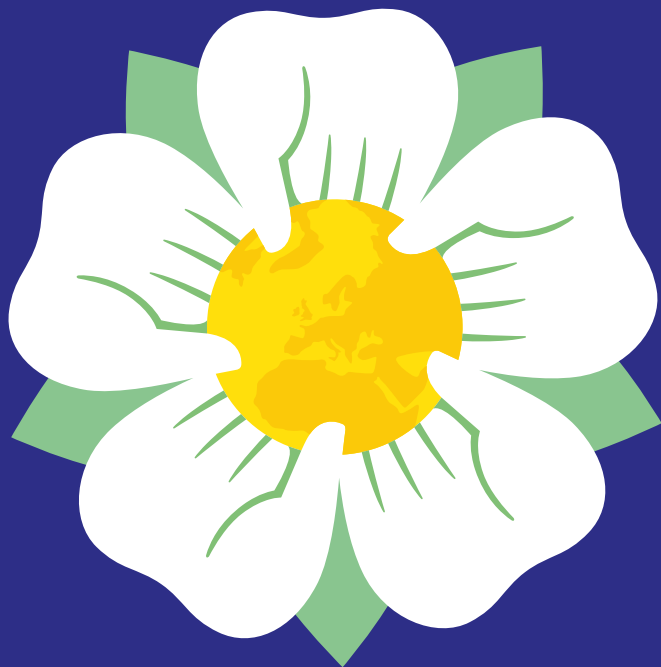
### You can get in touch with the Drax team on:

Email: [info@BECCS-Drax.com](mailto:info@BECCS-Drax.com)

Phone: 01757 618381

Please note that any data collected through your consultation feedback will only be used to help understand views regarding BECCS at Drax. The data will not be used for any other purposes. The data will be collated and analysed to help in the reporting of consultation feedback. We do not, and will not, sell personal information.

from Yorkshire,  
**for the world.**



Carbon  
Capture

by drax



J3 - Invitation to non-statutory consultation events

**Subject:** BECCS at Drax Non-Statutory Consultation - Seeking views on our proposals  
**Attachments:** BECCS at Drax Leaflet March 2021.pdf; BECCS at Drax S-Letter 01.03.2021.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam

Drax Power Limited ("Drax") is proposing to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) within its existing plant in North Yorkshire. BECCS is a technology that has been successfully trialled and developed to remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. We are proposing to install carbon capture technology on up to two of our existing biomass power generating units at Drax Power Station, helping us remove more CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere than is produced across our operations, making the company carbon negative. The project is known as "BECCS at Drax".

We are holding a non-statutory consultation to seek your views on our early proposals for BECCS at Drax. We have attached a leaflet with further details on the proposed scheme. You can also find more information online at: [www.beccs-drax.com](#)

As BECCS at Drax is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008, its construction and operation requires planning permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO). As part of this DCO process, we will be holding a further statutory consultation later in the year.

Your views are important to us and will help to inform our proposals. This non-statutory consultation runs from 1 March 2021 to 28 March 2021. Please provide any comments by midnight (23:59) on 28 March 2021. Due to restrictions on events and public gatherings that are in place because of COVID-19, we have taken the decision to make this consultation virtual. Through the website you will be able to view and comment on the proposals. We plan to hold live chat Q&A events via the website where you can ask members of the project team any questions. The events will be held on:

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Please also contact us if you would like a hard copy of the consultation materials, or if you require these in different formats such as braille or large print. You can get in touch with the Drax team on the details below. We look forward to hearing your views on our proposals and we hope that you use this opportunity to take part in the consultation.

Yours sincerely

Jim Doyle  
Development Manager

Email: [info@BECCS-Drax.com](mailto:info@BECCS-Drax.com)  
Phone: 01757 618381

J4 - Non-statutory consultation press release and  
Goole Times wrap around



## NEWS RELEASE

Date

### DRAX KICKSTARTS APPLICATION PROCESS TO BUILD VITAL NEGATIVE EMISSIONS TECHNOLOGY

- *Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) is an essential negative emissions technology needed for the UK to meet its legally binding net zero by 2050 target and demonstrate global climate leadership.*
- *Work to build BECCS could get underway at Drax as soon as 2024, creating tens of thousands of jobs and supporting a post-covid economic recovery*
- *By 2027 Drax's first BECCS unit could be operational, delivering the UK's largest carbon capture project and permanently removing millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year.*

Drax is to kickstart the planning process for its proposals to build ground-breaking negative emissions technology, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), marking a major milestone in the project.

The energy company has already transformed its power station near Selby in North Yorkshire to become the largest decarbonisation project in Europe having converted it to use sustainable biomass instead of coal.

Now it has ambitions to go further by using BECCS to permanently remove millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year from the atmosphere and create a negative carbon footprint for the company.

In order to deploy this cutting edge, negative emissions technology Drax must secure a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the government – a process which takes around two years to complete, and which will get underway in March.

Will Gardiner, Drax Group CEO said: “Kickstarting the DCO process this March is a landmark moment in deploying BECCS at Drax and delivering against our ambition to be a carbon negative company by 2030.

“At Drax we are very proud of the great strides already made in transforming the business to become the UK's largest single site renewable power generator, producing enough renewable electricity for up to four million homes and protecting thousands of jobs in the process.

“With BECCS we can go even further - we will be permanently removing millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and making a significant contribution to efforts to address the climate emergency, whilst creating thousands of new jobs and supporting a post-covid, economic recovery.”

Drax recently [announced the proposed acquisition](#) of Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc – a Canadian wood pellet producer. The deal, which is subject to shareholder and other approvals, would double Drax's own biomass production capacity, in line with its strategy to increase self-supply, reduce costs and create a long term future for biomass – paving the way for the deployment of BECCS



If successful in its DCO application, and subject to the right investment framework from government, work to build Drax's first two BECCS units could get underway in 2024, ready to start capturing and storing up to eight million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.

The first phase of the DCO application process includes an informal public consultation during March, when people can provide comments on Drax's proposals for BECCS via the [project website](#).

Earlier this month Drax sold its four gas power stations and has also announced last week as part of its [2020 financial results](#) that it will not be progressing plans to develop high efficiency gas power at the Drax site in North Yorkshire.

The news comes a year after [Drax said](#) it would end almost 50 years of commercial coal-fired electricity generation at Drax Power Station in March 2021 and is aligned with its intention to focus on renewable generation from biomass and hydro.

ENDS

**Media contacts:**

**Ali Lewis**  
**Drax Group Head of Media and PR**  
E: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Aidan Kerr**  
**Drax Group Media Manager**  
E: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Editor's Notes**

**BECCS consultation:**

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Drax is a founding member of the Zero Carbon Humber, a partnership of 12 leading businesses and organisations, which jointly [submitted a public-private sector funded bid](#) worth around £75m to the UK Government to establish a CCS and hydrogen economy in the Humber region.

As the UK's most carbon intensive industrial region, the benefits of decarbonising the Humber would have the greatest impact on enabling the country to reach its legally binding net zero by 2050 target, whilst generating clean growth for the economy.



Deploying hydrogen production at scale for fuel-switching, as well as carbon capture to decarbonise gas power and other industries, alongside BECCS at Drax, could create and support tens of thousands of jobs in the Humber region.

### **About Drax**

Drax Group's purpose is to enable a zero carbon, lower cost energy future and in 2019 announced a world-leading ambition to be carbon negative by 2030, using Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) technology.

Its 2,900 employees operate across three principal areas of activity – electricity generation, electricity sales to business customers and compressed wood pellet production.

### **Power generation:**

Drax owns and operates a portfolio of renewable electricity generation assets in England and Scotland. The assets include the UK's largest power station, based at Selby, North Yorkshire, which supplies five percent of the country's electricity needs.

Having converted two thirds of Drax Power Station to use sustainable biomass instead of coal it has become the UK's biggest renewable power generator and the largest decarbonisation project in Europe. It is also where Drax is piloting the groundbreaking negative emissions technology BECCS within its CCUS (Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage) Incubation Area.

Its pumped storage, hydro and energy from waste assets in Scotland include Cruachan Power Station – a flexible pumped storage facility within the hollowed-out mountain Ben Cruachan.

### **Customers:**

Through its two B2B energy supply brands, Haven Power and Opus Energy, Drax supplies energy to 250,000 businesses across Britain.

### **Pellet production:**

Drax owns and operates three pellet mills in the US South which manufacture compressed wood pellets (biomass) produced from sustainably managed working forests. These pellet mills supply around 20% of the biomass used by Drax Power Station in North Yorkshire to generate flexible, renewable power for the UK's homes and businesses.

For more information visit [\[redacted\]](#)





## NEWS RELEASE

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For more information visit [\[redacted\]](#)

# Goole Times

TODAY'S EDITION OF YOUR FAVOURITE  
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IS INSIDE >>>>>

Thursday, March 4th, 2021 Issue 7864

85p

## SCHOOL IDEA HAS BEEN 'MISJUDGED'

# DRAX KICKSTARTS BECCS PLANNING PROCESS

Drax is to kickstart the planning process for its proposals to build ground-breaking negative emissions technology, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), marking a major milestone in the project.

The energy company has already transformed its power station near Selby in North Yorkshire to become the largest decarbonisation project in Europe having converted it to use sustainable biomass instead of coal.

Now it has ambitions to go further by using BECCS to permanently remove millions of tonnes of CO2 each year from the atmosphere and create a negative carbon footprint for the company.

In order to deploy this cutting edge, negative emissions technology, required in order for the UK to meet its net zero target, Drax must secure a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the government – a process which takes around two years to complete and begins with a public consultation.

Will Gardiner, Drax Group CEO said: "Kickstarting the DCO process this March is a landmark moment in deploying BECCS at Drax and delivering against our ambition to be a carbon negative company by 2030.

"At Drax we are very proud of the great strides already made in transforming the business to become the UK's largest single site renewable power generator, producing enough renewable electricity for up to four million homes and protecting thousands of jobs in the process.

"With BECCS we can go even further - we will be permanently removing millions of tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere and making a significant contribution to efforts to address the climate emergency, whilst creating



Drax Power Station – the UK's largest single site renewable power generator.

thousands of new jobs and supporting a post-covid, economic recovery.

If successful in its DCO application, and subject to the right investment framework from government, work to build Drax's first two BECCS units could get underway in 2024, ready to start capturing and storing up to eight

million tonnes of CO2 a year from 2027 – delivering the UK's largest carbon capture project.

People can provide comments on Drax's proposals for BECCS via the project website at [www.beccs-drax.com](http://www.beccs-drax.com) throughout March.

Due to covid restrictions, consultation events will take place online with members of the public

able to find out more and provide comments on the proposals via live QA and chat events on:

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The feedback will be used to inform more detailed plans which will be subject to a statutory consultation later in the year with final plans submitted to the planning Inspectorate in 2022.

negative emissions,  
positive future



Carbon Capture | by drax



PAGE FORTY

Thursday, March 4th, 2021

# DRAX'S TOP APPRENTICES

Apprentices from across the Drax Group were recognised for their efforts overcoming the unprecedented challenges that Covid-19 brought in the energy company's annual awards event.

The online awards ceremony saw budding craftsman Lewis Marran, aged 22, from Doncaster, win the Craft Apprentice of the Year 2020 (Year 2) and the Paul Chambers Outstanding Achievement Award – having received the Maintenance Apprentice of the Year in 2019.

Lewis, who is in the final year of his apprenticeship, hopes to work at Drax full time after completing an NVQ in control and instrumentation.

He said: "I will look back on this year as a very positive experience. I would like to thank the staff at Drax for their support as well as the craftspeople I've worked with who helped me build my skills and develop in my role."

Mike Maudsley, Drax's UK Portfolio Generation Director, who hosted the event, said: "Supporting

education and skills across our region is essential for a green recovery, and Drax is committed to championing young people and supporting them in their early careers. Covid-19 has meant that it has been a challenging year for everyone, but our apprentices rose to the challenge, bringing enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the business."

This year's winners included:

- Craft Apprentice of the Year (Year 2) and the Paul Chambers Outstanding Achievement Award – Lewis Marran, age 22 from Doncaster
- Craft Apprentice of the Year (Year 1) – Elliot Hand, age 25 from York
- Craft Apprentice of the Year (Year 3) – Ben Scott, age 20 from Brough
- Business Apprentice of the Year (Non-Customer) – Ben Senior, age 21 from York
- Uniper Engineering Academy Award – Sam Brown, age 17 from Scunthorpe



Lewis Marran, winner of Craft Apprentice of the Year and the Paul Chambers Outstanding Achievement Award

## DRAX IMPROVES SKILLS FOR A MILLION

Drax is to boost social mobility for a million people by 2025, the first time any UK energy company has made such a pledge.

The plan has been developed in partnership with the Social Mobility Pledge, a campaign led by former Education minister Justine Greening.

Through its 'Mobilising a Million' initiative, the renewable energy company will connect with one million people by 2025 to improve skills, education and employability.

Justine Greening, Co-founder of the Social Mobility Pledge, said: "In publishing this Opportunity Action Plan and marking its ambition to improve skills, education, employability and opportunity for one million people - Drax has demonstrated its commitments to making a positive social impact."

Drax plans to reach a million people through a range of initiatives including online skills sessions and webinars, virtual site tours and educational outreach programmes, as well as opportunities for individuals to develop their careers through apprenticeships, graduate schemes, internships and college partnerships.

Drax also plans to offer careers events, science fairs, work experience, CV support and women focused events for its partner schools to promote gender balance in the energy industry.

Will Gardiner, Drax Group CEO, said: "Drax, along with other businesses, has an important part to play in making sure we have a future workforce with the skills to deliver the new technologies needed to decarbonise the economy and meet the UK's net zero target."

"By boosting education, skills and employability opportunities for a million people, we can start to level the playing field and build a more diverse workforce. This will make our business stronger and able to make a more significant contribution to the UK's green recovery from Covid."

negative emissions,  
positive future



Carbon Capture | by drax

ISSN 1468-6368

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Published by Chronicle Publications Ltd, 102 Boothby Road, Goole, Tel: 01469 720110. Electronic composition by Chronicle Publications Ltd. Printed by Sheffield Web, Donington

J5 - Non-statutory consultation flyer



A stylized graphic of a power station chimney. The chimney is dark blue and extends from the bottom of the page to the top. It has three horizontal white lines near the top. The top of the chimney is a light green color. The background is split horizontally: the top half is light green and the bottom half is dark blue. The chimney is positioned on the left side of the page.

# Proposal to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) at Drax Power Station

Public consultation  
1 March to 28 March 2021

Carbon  
Capture

| by drax

# Drax Power Limited is proposing to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) at its power station in North Yorkshire.

BECCS is a technology that has been developed to permanently remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, which is vital to efforts to address the climate crisis. We are proposing to install carbon capture technology on up to two of our existing biomass power generating boilers at Drax Power Station, helping us to permanently remove more CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere than is produced across our operations, making the company carbon negative.

We are holding a consultation to seek your views on our early proposals for deploying BECCS at Drax. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on events and public gatherings, we have decided to hold this consultation online. You can find more information online at: [beccsconsultation.drax.com](https://beccsconsultation.drax.com)

If you would prefer a hard copy of the consultation materials, or if you require these in different formats such as braille or large print, please contact us.

**Please provide your comments by midnight (23:59) on Sunday 28 March 2021.**

Through the website you will be able to view and comment on the proposals. We plan to hold live chat Q&A events via the website where you can ask members of the project team any questions.

## Live Q&A event dates:

- **Tuesday 9 March**  
from 4.00pm - 8.00pm
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**If you have any questions, you can contact us on:**

Email: [info@beccsconsultation.drax.com](mailto:info@beccsconsultation.drax.com)  
Phone: 01757 618381

Carbon  
Capture | **by drax**

J6 - Non-statutory consultation Feedback Form

# Give us your views on BECCS at Drax

## About you

Please provide your name.\*

\*these questions are mandatory

Email\*

Postcode\*

Contact number (optional)

How did you find out about this consultation?

- ☐ Flyer ☐ Newspaper article ☐ Newspaper advert ☐ Social media ☐ Search engine ☐ News website  
☐ A Drax website ☐ Word of mouth ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## About the proposals

**Q1 How do you feel about Drax's ambition to become carbon negative by 2030?**

- ☐ Strongly support ☐ Support ☐ Unsure ☐ Oppose ☐ Strongly Oppose

**Q2 Our vision focuses on three core pillars: the need for negative emissions, creating jobs and economic growth, and innovation in the global fight against climate change. How important are each of these pillars to you?**

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The need for negative emissions                       | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Creating jobs and economic growth                     | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Innovation in the global fight against climate change | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |

**Q3 We will be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which considers a wide variety of potential environmental and socio-economic impacts and how we could reduce or mitigate these. Which of these topics are most important to you?**

- |                              |   |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Air quality                  | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Landscape and visual impacts | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Noise impacts                | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Ecology                      | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Water impacts                | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Socioeconomics               | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Transport                    | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Heritage                     | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Ground conditions            | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Materials and waste          | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Greenhouse gases             | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |
| Other                        | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ | ☆ |

**Q4 Do you support the proposals to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) within Drax Power Station's existing plant in North Yorkshire?**

- ☐ Strongly support ☐ Support ☐ Unsure ☐ Oppose ☐ Strongly Oppose

Please see next page for further questions.

**Q5** Do you have any further comments on the proposals?

### About the consultation

**Q6** Did you find all the information you needed on the website, digital exhibition boards and leaflet to understand the proposals?

☐ Yes ☐ Unsure ☐ No

If you said No, what more information would you like to have seen?

**Q7** How was your experience of the consultation taking place online with the digital exhibition?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Unsure ☐ Poor ☐ Very poor

**Q8** If we were to hold this consultation again, after the Covid pandemic restrictions on events have lifted, would you be happy for the consultation to take place online again?

☐ Yes ☐ Unsure ☐ No

**Q9** Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding this BECCS at Drax consultation?

Thank you, your views are very important to us. Please return your completed feedback form free of charge to 'FREEPOST CARBON CAPTURE BY DRAX'. This form is also available to fill out on our website [www.beccs-drax.com/give-your-view/](http://www.beccs-drax.com/give-your-view/)

T: 01757 618 381 E: [info@beccs-drax.com](mailto:info@beccs-drax.com)

J7 - Non-statutory consultation - invitation letters to briefings

Cover email

Non-political stakeholder letter

Political stakeholders letter

Statutory stakeholder letter

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached our letter to you regarding the BECCS at Drax Non-Statutory Consultation.

Drax Power Limited ("Drax") is proposing to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) within its existing plant in North Yorkshire. BECCS is a technology that has been successfully trialled and developed to remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. We are proposing to install carbon capture technology on up to two of our existing biomass power generating units at Drax Power Station, helping us remove more CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere than is produced across our operations, making the company carbon negative. The project is known as "BECCS at Drax".

We are holding a non-statutory consultation to seek your views on our early proposals for BECCS at Drax. We have attached a leaflet with further details on the proposed scheme. You can also find more information online at: [REDACTED]

As BECCS at Drax is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008, its construction and operation requires planning permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO). As part of this DCO process, we will be holding a further statutory consultation later in the year.

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Please also contact us if you would like a hard copy of the consultation materials, or if you require these in different formats such as braille or large print. You can get in touch with the Drax team on the details below. We look forward to hearing your views on our proposals and we hope that you use this opportunity to take part in the consultation.

Yours sincerely

Jim Doyle  
Development Manager

Email: [info@BECCS-Drax.com](mailto:info@BECCS-Drax.com)  
Phone: 01757 618381





Drax Power Station  
Selby  
North Yorkshire  
YO8 8PH

1 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

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We are holding a non-statutory consultation to seek the local community's views on our early proposals for BECCS at Drax. We have attached a leaflet with further details on the proposed scheme. You can also find more information online at:

**[www.BECCS-Drax.com](http://www.BECCS-Drax.com)**

As BECCS at Drax is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008, its construction and operation requires planning permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO). As part of this DCO process, we will be holding a further statutory consultation later in the year.

The community's views are important to us and will help to inform our proposals. This non-statutory consultation runs from 1 March 2021 to 28 March 2021 and we have created a bespoke feedback form for responses on the website. **Please provide any comments by midnight (23:59) on the 28 March 2021.**

Due to restrictions on events and public gatherings that are in place because of COVID-19, we have taken the decision to make this consultation virtual. Through the website the



public will be able to view and comment on the proposals. We plan to hold live chat Q&A events via the website where you can ask members of the project team any questions. The events will be held on:

- Tuesday 9 March from 4.00pm – 8.00pm
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We also intend to hold a drop-in session on Tuesday 23 March between 11.00am – 8.00pm when the public can join a member of the project team on a call and have their questions answered in person. You can find out more about how to join the events on our website ([www.BECCS-Drax.com](http://www.BECCS-Drax.com)) or by contacting us by email or phone.

Please also contact us if you would like a hard copy of the consultation materials, or if you require these in different formats such as braille or large print. You can get in touch with the Drax team on the details below.

We look forward to hearing your views on our proposals and we hope that you use this opportunity to take part in the consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Jim Doyle**

Development Manager

**Email:** [info@BECCS-Drax.com](mailto:info@BECCS-Drax.com)

**Phone:** 01757 618381



Drax Power Station  
Selby  
North Yorkshire  
YO8 8PH

1 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **BECCS at Drax non-statutory consultation - Seeking views on our proposals**

Drax Power Limited ("Drax") is proposing to develop Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) within its existing plant in North Yorkshire.

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Ahead of these public drop-in sessions, we'd like to offer you the opportunity to receive a briefing with the project team so you can ask any questions about the proposals. If you would like for us to arrange a briefing with you, at any time during the consultation, please let us know. Please also contact us if you would like a hard copy of the consultation materials, or if you require these in different formats such as braille or large print. You can get in touch with the Drax team on the details below.

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## J8 - Non-statutory consultation FAQs



# Frequently asked questions

## BECCS and the project

### What are you planning on doing?

BECCS is a technology that has been developed to remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. At Drax Power Station we already use biomass sourced from sustainably managed forests to generate electricity, and we now plan to install BECCS technology to capture the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted as part of that energy generation (known as "BECCS at Drax"). This will help to take more CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere than we are emitting, which is known as negative emissions.

Drax Power Station currently has four biomass units that are converted fuel boilers, capable of burning different biomass fuels. We are proposing to install carbon capture technology for up to two of these biomass power generating boilers. This will remove up to 95% of the CO<sub>2</sub> from the gas that is currently emitted.

This CO<sub>2</sub> would then be transported and stored in safe underground deposits - which will be developed as a separate project.

For more detail on our proposal please see our digital exhibition.

### What is BECCS and how does it work to achieve negative carbon emissions?

BECCS uses innovative technologies to process energy generated from biomass whilst also capturing and storing the CO<sub>2</sub> that is created as part of that process.

Drax's biomass units already use biomass sourced from sustainably managed forests to generate electricity. The forests used to create biomass absorb CO<sub>2</sub> while growing.

With BECCS at Drax, the CO<sub>2</sub> that is emitted as part of the energy generation from biomass will be captured using carbon capture technology, then safely stored in underground deposits. The process of electricity generation becomes carbon negative, as more CO<sub>2</sub> has been removed from the atmosphere than has been added.

For BECCS at Drax, the CO<sub>2</sub> captured will be transported via the proposed National Grid Ventures pipeline for compression at Easington, East Yorkshire, and stored under the North Sea. The transport and storage infrastructure will be developed as separate projects.

The National Grid Future Energy Scenarios report published in July said in order to reach net zero by 2050, BECCS will need to be deployed at scale in the UK by the end of the 2020s.

### Why is this important?

The climate crisis is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Developing negative emissions technologies, like BECCS, is vital if we are to deliver for the environment and the economy.

Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage is a game changing negative emissions technology that permanently removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and will be needed globally to meet climate targets.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) say negative emissions technologies will be essential because they will help to offset the emissions from other harder to decarbonise sectors like agriculture and aviation.

According to the CCC and National Grid in its future energy scenarios, the UK won't reach its 2050 net zero target without negative emissions from BECCS technology. This is because there are sectors like aviation and some industrial processes where it will be challenging to reduce emissions to zero. Therefore, we need negative emissions to reach net zero overall.

# Frequently asked questions

## Is BECCS a proven technology? Will it work?

Post-combustion carbon capture is a well proven technology, with large scale projects already deployed at Boundary Dam '3' in Canada and Petra Nova in Texas, USA. This is the world's largest post combustion carbon capture facility, capturing 1.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.

Drax is continuing to pilot technology, started before this proposed development, ensuring compatibility with a 100% biomass feedstock. When compared to coal flue gases, as per Boundary Dam and Petra Nova, Drax's experience with Biomass means it is cleaner and easier, with much lower Nitrogen and Sulphur emissions, which are favourable for post combustion carbon capture processes.

Drax's Zero Carbon Humber partners – National Grid Ventures and Equinor – have decades of experience safely transporting gas by pipeline and injecting and storing CO<sub>2</sub> in saline aquifers offshore.

The North Sea is already home to significant CCS projects such as the Equinor-operated Sleipner field in the Norwegian sector which is now capturing and storing around 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year from the natural gas. Since the Sleipner project started in 1996 around 20 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> has been safely captured and stored under the seabed.

Theoretical estimates suggest the UK could have up to 80 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> storage accessible offshore, and the Sleipner field CCS project demonstrates the feasibility of this technology and the potential for Britain to use the North Sea in the fight against climate change.

## Is BECCS sustainable?

Research commissioned by Drax shows there is enough sustainable biomass available globally to support BECCS projects to capture up to 4GT of CO<sub>2</sub> without adversely impacting forest health, biodiversity or food security. This is equivalent to four times the annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from commercial aviation.

## What is the project timeline?

With an effective negative emissions policy and investment framework from government we could deploy BECCS on two of our biomass generating units by 2030 – the first as soon as 2027.

2021: Drax BECCS DCO planning application developed

2027: BECCS technology installed on at least one biomass generating unit at Drax

2030: BECCS installed on two biomass units and Drax Group becomes a carbon negative company

2040: Humber industrial cluster achieves net zero carbon status

# Frequently asked questions

## Consenting process

### **Will you be consulting local communities?**

Yes. We have begun early discussions with the local authorities and some of the core environmental bodies. Ahead of applying for the relevant planning consent we will consult with local communities to seek their views and will be undertaking further statutory consultations later in the year.

As you're aware, we are currently undertaking our first phase of consultation. Following this consultation, we'll review your feedback, undertake environmental impact assessment, and continue to develop the design for BECCS at Drax, so that we have further details of the project to share at the statutory consultation to be held later in the year. Consultation feedback is important to us and plays a significant part in influencing our proposals. It helps us to understand what different people, community groups, landowners and organisations feel is most important to them and how we can improve our plans.

### **What is a DCO?**

A Development Consent Order (DCO) is the means of obtaining permission for the construction and operation of developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). This includes energy (such as this project), transport, water and waste projects that meet certain thresholds set out in the Planning Act 2008.

As BECCS is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008, its construction and operation require a Development Consent Order (DCO), granted by the Secretary of State.

We intend to submit our application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate (who administers applications under the Planning Act 2008) in 2022. Before we do this, you will get another chance to give us your views in another consultation. If accepted, an examining authority would undertake an independent public examination of the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will make the final decision as to whether to grant permission for the Proposed Scheme. You will have the opportunity to be involved in the examination of the proposed scheme.

### **How do you plan on informing the public about the project?**

We will communicate with the public via online consultation events (via a Chatbot and live Q&A session with the project team), flyers, letters, a website and face-to-face (dependent on Covid restrictions).

# Frequently asked questions

## The impacts

We will be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which considers the potential impacts of the proposed scheme and how we could reduce or mitigate any significant adverse impacts.

We will be looking at the landscape and visual impacts, air quality, and ecology in the local area and other environmental factors that could be affected by our proposals.

As we continue to develop our proposals, we will provide more detail on our environmental assessments as well as our thinking on how we can minimise or mitigate any adverse environmental impacts.

We will also consult on the preliminary findings at the statutory consultation and submit a full environmental statement with the application.

### **How are you going to protect wildlife?**

We always take great care to minimise the impacts of our works and will be engaging with wildlife experts, local wildlife trusts, Natural England and other relevant local community groups throughout the process.

## Economic benefits

### **Will you create any new jobs?**

Developing BECCS at Drax will spearhead a new world-leading green industry for Yorkshire and the Humber region.

The Humber region already supports 360,000 jobs, but BECCS at Drax could boost skills and create, and support tens of thousands of jobs locally and across the entire supply chain.

J9 - Non-statutory consultation - organisations sent the letter and consultation leaflet

| No. | Last Name  |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Newland Parish Council                                   |
| 2   | Selby Parish Council                                     |
| 3   | Carlton Parish Council                                   |
| 4   | Cliffe Parish Council                                    |
| 5   | Hemingbrough Parish Council                              |
| 6   | North Duffield Parish Council                            |
| 7   | Barlby and Osgodby Parish Council                        |
| 8   | Brayton Parish Council                                   |
| 9   | Burn Parish Council                                      |
| 10  | Hirst Courtney Parish Council                            |
| 11  | Asselby Parish Council                                   |
| 12  | Bubwith Parish Council                                   |
| 13  | Goole Parish Council                                     |
| 14  | Gowdall Parish Council                                   |
| 15  | Snaith & Cowick Parish Council                           |
| 16  | Rawcliffe Parish Council                                 |
| 17  | Wressle Parish Council                                   |
| 18  | Howden Parish Council                                    |
| 19  | Airmyn Parish Council                                    |
| 20  | Selby District Council                                   |
| 21  | North Yorkshire County Council                           |
| 22  | MP for Selby & Ainsty                                    |
| 23  | MP for Haltemprice & Howden                              |
| 24  | MP Brigg & Goole   |
| 25  | Age UK Selby District                                    |
| 26  | The Kiloran Trust  |
| 27  | Brighter Futures   |
| 28  | Salvation Army - Selby                                   |
| 29  | St James Selby   |
| 30  | The Roman Catholic Parish of St Mary's Carlton and Selby |
| 31  | St Wilfrid's Parish Brayton                              |
| 32  | Selby District Vision                                    |
| 33  | Selby Deaf Hub   |
| 34  | Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association                     |
| 35  | Ramblers Yorkshire Group                                 |
| 36  | Sherburn Aero Club                                       |
| 37  | Selby AVS  |
| 38  | Community First Yorkshire                                |
| 39  | The Health and Safety Executive                          |
| 40  | The National Health Service                              |
| 41  | Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group                |
| 42  | East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group    |
| 43  | Natural England  |
| 44  | Historic England - Yorkshire                             |
| 45  | North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue                          |
| 46  | North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner            |
| 47  | Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner                 |
| 48  | Long Drax Parish Council                                 |
| 49  | Barlow Parish Council                                    |
| 50  | Barmby on the Marsh Parish Council                       |
| 51  | Camblesforth Parish Council                              |
| 52  | The Environment Agency - Yorkshire                       |
| 53  | Marine Management Organisation (MMO)                     |
| 54  | Civil Aviation Authority                                 |
| 55  | South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive            |
| 56  | Sheffield City Region Combined Authority                 |
| 57  | West Yorkshire Combined Authority                        |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 58  | The Coal Authority  |
| 59  | Selby Area Internal Drainage Board                                    |
| 60  | Ouse and Humber Drainage Board  |
| 61  | Ouse and Derwent Internal Drainage Board                              |
| 62  | Black Drain Drainage Board  |
| 63  | Cowick and Snaith Internal Drainage Board                             |
| 64  | Danvm Drainage Commissioners  |
| 65  | Reedness & Swinefleet Drainage Commissioners                          |
| 66  | Goole Fields District Drainage Board                                  |
| 67  | Goole and Airmyn Internal Drainage Board                              |
| 68  | Thorntree Internal Drainage Board                                     |
| 69  | Public Health England   |
| 70  | The Crown Estate  |
| 71  | Forestry Commission   |
| 72  | Joint Nature Conservation Committee                                   |
| 73  | Trinity House   |
| 74  | Marine and Coast Guard Agency   |
| 75  | Yorkshire and Humber Ambulance Service NHS Trust                      |
| 76  | Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd                                       |
| 77  | Highways England Historical Railways Estate                           |
| 78  | North East Waterways  |
| 79  | NATS En-Route Safeguarding  |
| 80  | Homes and Communities Agency  |
| 81  | Yorkshire Water   |
| 82  | Cadent Gas Limited  |
| 83  | ESP Connections Ltd   |
| 84  | ESP Networks Ltd  |
| 85  | ESP Pipelines Ltd   |
| 86  | ESP Electricity Limited   |
| 87  | ES Pipelines Ltd  |
| 88  | Fulcrum Pipelines Limited   |
| 89  | GTC Pipelines Limited   |
| 90  | Independent Pipelines Ltd   |
| 91  | Indigo Pipelines Limited  |
| 92  | National Grid Gas Plc   |
| 93  | National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc                            |
| 94  | Scotland Gas Networks Plc   |
| 95  | Wales and West Utilities Ltd  |
| 96  | G2 Energy IDNO Limited  |
| 97  | Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited                                     |
| 98  | Peel Electricity Networks Limited                                     |
| 99  | Independent Power Networks Limited                                    |
| 100 | The Electricity Network Company Limited                               |
| 101 | UK Power Distribution Limited   |
| 102 | Utility Assets Limited  |
| 103 | Utility Distribution Networks Limited                                 |
| 104 | Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc                                    |
| 105 | Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health)           |
| 106 | Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Acute)              |
| 107 | South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health) |
| 108 | Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (Acute)                   |
| 109 | Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (Acute)          |
| 110 | Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health)       |
| 111 | City of York Council  |
| 112 | Harrogate Borough Council   |
| 113 | Leeds City Council  |
| 114 | Wakefield Met District Council  |
| 115 | Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council                                |



|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 116 | Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council       |
| 117 | Durham County Council                  |
| 118 | Cumbria County Council                 |
| 119 | Lancashire County Council              |
| 120 | Bradford Metropolitan District Council |
| 121 | Darlington Borough Council             |
| 122 | Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council   |
| 123 | Middlesbrough Borough Council          |
| 124 | North York Moors National Park         |
| 125 | Yorkshire Dales National Park          |
| 126 | Rydale District Council                |
| 127 | Scarborough Borough Council            |
| 128 | Hull City Council                      |
| 129 | North Lincolnshire Council             |

\*Due to an error in the email address five organisations did not receive a direct mailing for non-statutory consultation, these are DVSA, Highways England, Canal Riverside Trust, Ministry of Defence and Royal Mail Group. All were directly contacted for statutory consultation.