

Greetings.

I would like to briefly comment on the 2030 Climate Target Initiative, the ambitious and necessary 2050 climate neutrality target and how biomass as a fuel hampers EU goals.

We find ourselves in the midst of climate catastrophe which cannot be denied. The burning of fossil fuels must be eliminated but that is not enough to meet the EU goals. The immediate cessation of burning fossil fuels would not be enough. Carbon that is present at alarming rates in the atmosphere and ocean must somehow be sequestered. So now we must account for every tonne of carbon, whether sink or source, to attain a sustainable relationship with our environment. The planet's forests are key to that sequestration as they enable carbon sequestration through living wood fibre and soil carbon storage.

Here in my province of Nova Scotia we have no current carbon accounting of our remaining Acadian forests. It must be started so the true value of today's forest is known including debt financing for the carbon (new fibre and soil) lost in coming years. Irresponsible forestry practices have turned Nova Scotia's forests and soils into carbon sources instead of sinks and surely this is happening around the globe with dire consequences. This must be turned around and carbon accounting for both soil and forest must become paramount.

Globally what is the current forest and soil carbon balance? How aware are humans with regard to sourcing or sinking carbon as it pertains to forests? The carbon value must be part of a global budget since climate change can no longer be denied. Although we may not have the science to accurately account for source and sink on a global scale we soon will.

International demands to account for all carbon transactions will grow. We must encourage the world's forests and soil's ability to increase its carbon wealth. If for example clear cutting a forest vents 1 million tonnes of carbon to the atmosphere, what is required to sink that carbon? Do we have an international remedy for that? There is no requirement on an international scale that prevents forests from being removed in order to meet human consumption. This is a dangerous path we are on: this biomass for fuel path. It will never enable the EU to meet their climate target.

We must acknowledge that international climate pressure will eventually demand that we account for our forest and soil carbon emissions. We must be proactive enough to turn our forests into a healthy and wealthy carbon sink. Massive harvesting of our forests to produce biofuel is not the way to do it. We are actually eliminating our best method of carbon sequestration. Burning biomass for fuel promotes a dangerously massive carbon debt.

The world's forests must be protected. They must be revered for the part they will play in climate mitigation. If the EU wants to meet its admirable and ambitious goal of climate neutrality by 2050, biofuel must be abandoned.

As an aside, some countries have poorly managed their forest to the point where they are now carbon sources. To stop this suicidal approach give these countries/provinces/states a chance to turn their forests into carbon sinks. Let a state set aside a minimum forest mass say 60% that currently sequesters X tonnes of carbon. Under a credit/debt agreement if the state demonstrates that next year that forest mass now has  $X + \Delta$  where  $\Delta$  is greater

than zero, that state can use the delta tonnes as a carbon credit. The agreement would allow states to alter their approach to forest management and start using their forests immediately to create value. The agreement must last until (at a minimum) the forest is truly a carbon sink. This is like making our grandchildren the bank managers of our forests. Obviously the agreements would be more complicated however the goal would be immediate economical positive forest management.

Sincere thanks,  
Concerned citizens in Nova Scotia, Canada