



Biomass Boiler Information Request Form

In common with other types of combustion appliances, biomass boilers are potentially a source of air pollution. Pollutants associated with biomass combustion include particulate matter (PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions. These pollution emissions can have an impact on local air quality and affect human health. It is essential that any new biomass boilers installed in The Highlands meet certain emission control requirements in order to protect local air quality.

You may find the Carbon Trust publication 'Biomass heating: a practical guide for potential users' a useful companion when completing this form. The publication can be downloaded from <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/publications/publicationdetail?productid=CTG012> (free registration required)

In order to approve a planning application associated with a biomass boiler, the following information below must be supplied to the local authority. This information is essential to our consideration of your development.

Towards the end of this form you will also find an "additional information" section. Although not essential in most cases, this additional information may help to us to assess your development and reduce the possibility that we have to return to you for more facts about your development.

1. Development Details

a) Planning Application Reference	
b) Name of Site	
c) Address where boiler(s) will be located	
d) Person completing form	
e) Contact telephone number	

2. Particulars of the Boiler

This information on the basic design of the system will help us assess the emissions performance. Biomass boilers often produce relatively high emissions when lightly loaded, hence the question regarding an accumulation tank (heat store). The boiler manufacturer and/ or installer should be able to help you provide this information.

f) Describe the proposed biomass boiler including make, model, manufacturer, thermal capacity (kw/MW), efficiency, maximum rate of fuel consumption (kg/hr or m³/hr).

3. Boiler Stack Details

The design of the stack greatly affects how pollutants produced in the boiler disperse over the surrounding area. Where the area is heavily built up, or has existing air quality issues, dispersion becomes more complicated and a computer modeling technique known as dispersion modeling may be required. Your installer should be able to provide most of the details and make a calculation on stack height and design. When dispersion modeling is required you or your installer may need to engage a specialist consultant.

g) Identify the height of the boiler exhaust stack above ground.

h) Identify stack internal diameter (m).

i) Provide maximum particulate matter and nitrogen oxides emission rates (mg/m³ or g/hr) to standard reference conditions (6% oxygen, 273K, 101.3kPa).

j) Identify the exhaust gas efflux velocity (m/s).

k) Provide the grid reference of boiler exhaust stack.

4. Fuel Details

Emissions from a biomass boiler depend greatly on the type and quality of the fuel used. Reasonable guarantees are therefore needed that the fuel is compatible with the boiler, is of a high quality and that quality will be assured for a reasonable period of time. Your fuel supplier and installer should be able to provide this information.

l) Describe the fuel specification including origin, type of wood (chips, pellet, briquettes), nitrogen, moisture, ash content (%).
m) Identify where and how fuel will be stored on site (e.g. bunker or silo).

5. Building Details

The height and distance of neighbouring buildings will determine their exposure to emissions from the biomass boiler, and therefore the height of the stack needed. Your architect should be able to provide this information.

n)	Record the distance of adjacent buildings from boiler exhaust stack.
o)	Record the height of adjacent buildings from boiler exhaust stack.
p)	Record the dimensions of building to which the boiler exhaust stack is attached.
q)	Indicate the distance from the boiler exhaust stack to the nearest fan assisted intakes and openable windows.

6. Boiler Operation and Maintenance

System efficiency and emissions performance very much depend upon regular maintenance. Your installer should be able to recommend a suitable maintenance schedule.

r)	Describe arrangements for cleaning and de-ashing the boiler.
s)	Provide details of the maintenance schedule associated with boiler, abatement equipment and stack. This should include frequency of boiler inspection and servicing by a trained boiler engineer.
t)	Describe how incidences of boiler or abatement system failure are identified & mitigated.

7. Plans

Please attach the following to this form:

- A site plan showing the location of the boiler room, fuel storage area and the access and exit route for fuel delivery vehicles, and
- With reference to Section 5 above, a site plan showing the position of the boiler exhaust stack, fan assisted intake air vents and nearest openable windows.

8. Additional Information

u) Does the fuel comply with European or equivalent fuel quality standards such as CEN/TS 335 or ONORM?

v) Describe what fuel quality control procedures will be adopted to guarantee constant fuel quality from your supplier.

w) Provide evidence to demonstrate that the biomass boiler combustion system is applicable to the fuel specification.

x) Describe how fuel will be unloaded from the delivery vehicle into the storage facility and what control measures will be in place to reduce particulate matter emissions to atmosphere.

y) Describe the boiler combustion system and how combustion will be optimised and controlled.
z) Describe the fuel feed system.
aa) Provide details of the abatement equipment in place for controlling particulate matter (fly ash) emissions.
bb) How does the biomass boiler deal with variable heat loads – is the boiler linked to an accumulation tank?
cc) Is the biomass boiler an exempt appliance in accordance with the Clean Air Act 1993? If yes provide evidence to demonstrate the biomass boiler has been tested and certified as an exempt appliance (for example a link to the appliance on the UK Smoke Control Areas website http://www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk/appliances.php)

Returning this form

Please return this form to:-

Electronic Processing Centre

The Highland Council

Glenurquhart Road

Inverness

IV3 5NX

Email: ePlanning@highland.gov.uk