

The myth of 'sustainable' biomass

European Commission biomass impact assessment: “ensuring that the harvest level stays below the growth rate of the forest is **not sufficient to ensure climate change mitigation**” (<https://bit.ly/3ZwAdSz>)

IPCC: does “not automatically consider or assume biomass used for energy as 'carbon neutral', even in cases where the biomass is thought to be produced sustainably.” (<https://bit.ly/2W3Wkhl>)

In other words, “sustainability” is not a proxy for “carbon neutrality” of biomass!

Yet biomass is still counted even under REDIII sustainability criteria as having “zero” emissions as long as forest growth exceeds harvesting. This is incompatible with basic mathematics and explains (in part) why biomass harvesting in places like Estonia has helped obliterate the forest carbon sink (<https://forestdefenders.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/PFPI-Burning-up-the-carbon-sink-Nov-7-2022.pdf>)

“Sustainable” biomass (where growth exceeds harvesting) still erodes the forest carbon sink and emits CO₂.

