



Drax's Independent Advisory Board – H2 2023 update

Drax met with its Independent Advisory Board (IAB) twice in the second half of 2023, in August and November. These meetings were used to discuss a number of ongoing and completed projects at Drax, including: studies informing the 'Evidence Book' Drax is developing to summarise relevant research related to our supply chain for BECCS (focusing on biomass and carbon capture technology); Drax's updated Catchment Area Analysis (CAA) methodology and strategy; and general upcoming policy updates.

In the August meeting, the IAB reviewed the Evidence Book's draft table of contents and first chapter. The IAB shared feedback on clarity, structure, chapter content, potential gaps, and on how to best present varying views of the scientific community.

In the November meeting, Drax and the IAB had an in-person one-day meeting to discuss: progress on the Evidence Book since the June and August meetings, the updated CAA methodology, and new policies to be published by Drax in 2024.

At this meeting, Drax engaged with the IAB regarding the CAA methodology and ways it could be further expanded to continue building on our understanding of what's happening in our sourcing regions and local communities. The IAB acknowledged the quality of the work that went into developing the CAA criteria and looks forward to further engagement on the topic.

The IAB also suggested additional sources to aid in the development of the Evidence Book, offered advice on what to include in the new CAA methodology and how it can be used internally, and discussed what should be included in further studies to build on the data and reporting included in the CAA to provide more information relating to nature and people.

Lastly, the IAB Chair, Sir John Beddington, announced his intention to step down as Chair after the next meeting in February 2024, and to remain an ordinary member until the end of 2024. The current Vice-Chair, Lord John Krebs, will step up to Chair until 2026 at which time a new chair will be appointed.

On leaving the position of IAB Chair, Sir John Beddington said:

"It is with some regret that I am stepping down after five years as Chair of the IAB. A further regret is that due to the Covid situation we were unable to meet face to face as often as I would have liked. Gladly recently we have been able to meet up regularly.

The enormous problems of climate change are now well recognised and the weather disruption that is already faced, starkly points to the need for action.

The use of Biomass in a sustainable way is a critically important challenge and the IAB has focussed on this together with external third parties and Drax Staff. The emphasis has been on the need for scientifically credible evidence.

I am pleased with progress, but there is much still to be done.

Finally, I would like to thank these colleagues for the pleasant and industrious times we have had."