



Drax's Independent Advisory Board – H1 2024 update

In the first half of 2024, Drax met with its Independent Advisory Board (IAB) twice, in February and in May, both in-person meetings over two days. The February meeting was Sir John Beddington's last meeting as Chair, with the May meeting being chaired by the new Chair, Lord John Krebs (formerly Vice-Chair).

At the February meeting, the draft Nature Positive, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Forest Carbon strategies were presented to the IAB for input on overall content and aim. The IAB suggested that the US Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) is invited to present their work at a future meeting, in conjunction with an update on the Forest Carbon strategy.

The IAB also discussed Drax's commitments following the 'BECCS Done Well' report, and were given an update from the Drax team on what the final response would include and its framing (this final response can be found on our website here: [DR1908_Final-response-to-BECCS-DONE-WELL-Porritt-report_BF_V014.1.pdf \(drax.com\)](#)). The IAB requested that for the meeting in May Drax teams provide an update on Drax's People Positive activities, i.e., community work in SE USA specifically.

On the second day of the February meeting, the Science and Evidence team presented the research plan for 2024 and draft reports for the Evidence Hub with this first phase of studies to be published once finalised. The Evidence Hub will seek to provide a thorough and independent examination of scientific evidence and research surrounding all aspects of the BECCS value chain, with many of the studies being externally authored. The IAB fed back on the papers looking at biomass availability, carbon removals, and transport and storage, concurring with the intention to provide access to the study findings on Drax's website. The IAB recommended an additional set of text clarifying the purpose and objective of the Evidence Hub be included on the website to assist readers.

In May, the IAB and Drax took stock of all the topics and recommendations that the IAB has given since its inception in 2019, noting where progress had been made by Drax and where it remains to be made. The IAB recommended Drax present a list of key guiding questions for each topic discussed by the IAB, including: biodiversity, Catchment Area Analyses (CAAs), the Evidence Hub, and forest carbon accounting.

Following the IAB's request in February to hear more about the People Positive actions, the Drax Community team were invited to present at the May meeting. The Community team introduced the IAB to the work in SE USA with those local communities located close to Drax's pellet mills and plans for community engagement at potential new BECCS sites. The IAB recommended Drax continue work to build robust metrics and evaluation methodology into Drax's engagement programme.

The IAB requested that for future meetings, Drax provide a clear and succinct list of key questions for each topic that the IAB discusses. The major discussion topic for the August meeting is biodiversity.

The new Chair of the IAB, Professor Lord John Krebs said "Sir John Beddington has been an excellent chair of the IAB since its creation in 2019. I am delighted to follow him as chair and to support the IAB in continuing its valuable work in scrutinising and advising on the sustainability of Drax's bioenergy and BECCS strategies".