

Scottish Energy Crops Provide Carbon Neutral Fuel

Scottish farmers will produce 250,000 tonnes of energy crops to be burned at Scotland's two coal fired power stations, Cogenzie and Longannet, displacing the coal usually burned in the ScottishPower stations. Energy crops are considered carbon-neutral fuel because the carbon dioxide that is released when the crop is burned is equal to the CO₂ that is captured as the plant is grown. ScottishPower already burns carbon neutral biomass such as wood at the coal-fired power stations as part of its renewable energy program. The project will use about 12 per cent of Scotland's total agricultural land – roughly 35,000 hectares – with five per cent of the company's coal requirement displaced by energy crops by 2013. ScottishPower generation director Frank Mitchell says it is a significant move. "This is a significant step in our renewable energy program ultimately displacing 300,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. However, it is also an excellent opportunity for farmers with ScottishPower offering support for the Scottish agricultural community," he says.

[Source esaa news]