



Title: Energy and environmental impact of biomass as an alternative to coal in the European Union

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High import of fossil resources has been deteriorating the energy structure in the European Union (EU) due to dependence on external energy and price volatility. The EU has set targets for 2020, which include cutting CO₂ emissions by 20% and using 20% of energy from renewable sources, including biomass. As an indigenous resource biomass has significant energy, economic and environmental benefits. One of the most frequently used fossil resources is coal, although its use is conditioned by its harmful effects on the environment, mainly due to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and its gradual import increase. A review of the current situation reveals biomass as a promising energy resource alternative to coal, capable of contributing to fulfill the requirements of the energy demands and meeting the existing environmental ones. This work studies the potential role of biomass as an alternative to coal for its progressive breakthrough as an energy source in the EU.

Biography

J.P. Paredes-Sánchez, is a lecturer in the Department of Energy at the University of Oviedo, Spain. He has been associated with energy projects at the Oviedo Higher Technical School of Mining and Engineering since 2007. He is the author or co-author of papers, books and conferences on energy. He is also involved in EU programs for updating renewable energy research and higher education.

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