

April 2026

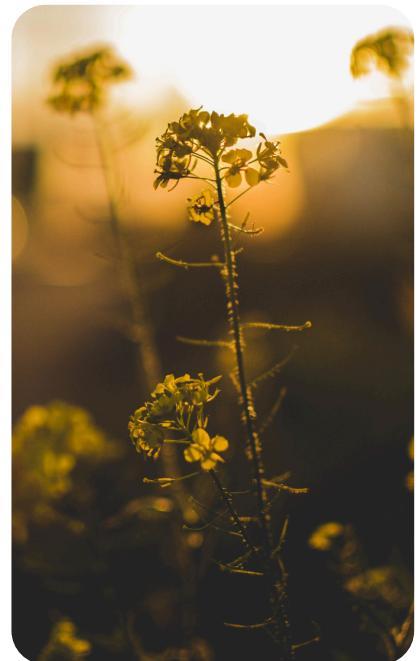
Feedstocks

Each month we review the latest news and select key announcements and commentary from across the Feedstocks and Biorefineries sector.



**Announcements
& Commentary**

**Research &
Development**



Providing clients with a strategic view of feedstock, technology, policy and marketing opportunity across the bioeconomy.



Welcome readers, to this month's Feedstocks and Biorefinery News Review.

The government has recently run 'Common biomass sustainability framework' consultation to collect views on biomass sustainability requirements across Government policies. The consultation, with particular interest in bioenergy production with carbon capture and storage, opened early December last year and accepted responses until the end of February. Here, we highlight some of the responses from prominent stakeholders.

The Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) argues that new or revised frameworks must align with existing UK Forestry Standard, RED III and UKTR/ EUDRI frameworks rather than creating new bespoke requirements. It also emphasises the need for a flexible approach, advocating that any new frameworks could initially be a policy guidance document rather than primary legislation to avoid "regulatory lag".

Ember, an energy think tank, argues that biomass power generation is fundamentally "incompatible with UK carbon budgets" due to its high emissions, cost, and reliance on imports. They argue that the government should further limit, and eventually phase down, large-scale biomass power, cap load factors eligible for subsidy after 2031, and shift to domestic sourcing while scaling up genuine low-carbon dispatchable power such as wind, solar and batteries.

Supergen Bioenergy Hub claims that the framework's scope must be broadened immediately beyond bioenergy under government incentives to cover the entire UK bioeconomy. A narrow energy-only focus could potentially create market distortions, inconsistent standards, and perverse incentives that push biomass into subsidised power routes even when higher-value or higher-impact uses exist elsewhere.

UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources agrees with the Supergen Bioenergy Hub and adds that the recommended framework should treat land as the primary constrained resource, strictly protect highly biodiverse grassland, and peatlands, reject sector-specific ILUC/crop caps, add social safeguards, food-security, water, and full ecosystem-service criteria, as well as fix carbon accounting.

Other feedstock news includes a Department for Transport (DfT) update of the list of feedstocks eligible under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Mandate. New entries such as residues from ethanol production, aflatoxin contaminated corn and wastewater from meat-processing plants will qualify for double rewards, receiving twice the number of Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates (RTFCs) per litre or kilogram of eligible fuel supplied.



Finally, the USDA has submitted a final rule to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish technical guidelines for the production of regenerative agricultural biofuel feedstocks. This rule, which is currently undergoing interagency review, builds upon an interim rule from January 2025 aimed at quantifying, reporting, and verifying the greenhouse gas emissions of domestic crops like corn, soy, and sorghum. Designed to support the implementation of the 45Z clean fuel production tax credit, the guidelines focus on climate-smart practices such as no-till farming, cover cropping, and enhanced nutrient management. By standardising these metrics, the USDA aims to create higher-value market opportunities for farmers while providing the biofuel industry with the regulatory certainty needed to expand low-carbon fuel production.

Read on for the latest news.

Policy

USDA delivers final rule on regenerative agricultural biofuel feedstocks to OMB

The USDA on April 1 delivered a final rule to establish “technical guidelines for the production of regenerative agricultural biofuel feedstocks” to the White House Office of Management and Budget, where it will undergo interagency review.

A summary posted to the OMB website explains the Biden administration in January 2025 issued an interim final rule (IFR) to establish new regulations that will set requirements for the quantification, reporting and verification of low-carbon, domestic agricultural feedstocks...

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Update: RTFO and SAF Mandate feedstock materials used for creating low carbon fuels

The Department for Transport (DfT) has published an updated list of feedstocks eligible under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Mandate.

The RTFO feedstock list categorises materials such as products, waste, residues, renewable fuels and agricultural by-products. Now, certain wastes and residues may qualify for double rewards, receiving twice the number of Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates (RTFCs) per litre or kilogram of eligible fuel supplied.

The new entries include residues from ethanol production and wastewater from meat-processing plants, mirroring the Government’s commitment to incorporating innovative and low-carbon materials in fuel production...

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[Access story coverage by Certas energy here](#)

Responses to consultation: Common biomass sustainability framework



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The government has recently run ‘Common biomass sustainability framework’ consultation to collect views on biomass sustainability requirements across Government policies. The consultation, with particular interest in bioenergy production with carbon capture and storage, opened early December last year and accepted responses until the end of February. Here, we provide links to the responses of some prominent stakeholders:

[Aviation Environment Federation](#), [UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources](#), [Supergen Bioenergy Hub](#), [Institute of Chartered Foresters](#), [Ember](#) and [REA](#)

Research & Development

Funding notice: Department of Energy announces up to \$10 million for algal systems research and development to expand U.S. bioenergy feedstock.



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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) announced up to \$10 million in funding to support high-impact research and development (R&D) focused on algae system cultivation and preprocessing. The notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), Maximizing Algal System Yield (MASY), will support BETO's R&D priorities in the area of Renewable Carbon Resources for advancing algal systems.

Algae can provide abundant, feedstock sources for affordable, reliable biofuels, bioproducts, and bioenergy that do not compete with existing feedstocks. For this NOFO, algae include microalgae, cyanobacteria, and macroalgae (also referred to as seaweed).

The MASY NOFO seeks applications to address 'pinch points' (defined as a challenge area within a proposed system that, if relieved, would enable scaling towards commercialization) in algal system operations that currently limit algae expansion as a domestic bioenergy feedstock...

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Transforming agricultural waste into water and energy solutions in Mozambique

Mozambique has abundant renewable resources and millions of hectares of arable land. Yet much of its agricultural potential remains untapped. Researchers from the University of Bologna are collaborating with local farmers and the International Association of Lay Volunteers (LVIA), an NGO operating across Africa, to turn local agricultural waste into practical, affordable solutions that address both water and energy challenges.

Turning waste into opportunity

Rural communities in Mozambique face limited access to clean water and reliable energy, which has a ripple effect on daily life. Without energy, pumps and irrigation systems cannot operate, and without water, agricultural growth stalls.

Francesca Valenti, a professor in the University of Bologna's Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences who led the study has said:

'Climate change is also making rainfall more unpredictable, increasing risks to food security. By combining spatial mapping with interviews and field surveys, we were able to capture small farms, informal activities, and everyday practices that are not officially recorded. This approach connects technical maps with people's lived experiences, making the results more realistic and useful for planning on the ground.'

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Wood & Crops

Crop progress: USDA issues its first 2026 crop progress report



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USDA's latest crop progress report – out Monday afternoon and covering the week through April 5 – marks the first of these reports for the 2026 season. Traders will increasingly have more data points to fold into their decision-making process in the coming weeks. Today's report showed initial corn planting progress, winter wheat conditions and more.

Corn plantings were 3% complete through Sunday, slightly exceeding analysts' expectations. Texas (59%), Tennessee (18%) and Missouri (8%) are leading the way so far, with 9 of the top 18 production states failing to show measurable progress at this time. Nationwide, 2026's pace is slightly ahead of both 2025 and the prior five-year average...

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Laurel County, Kentucky issued BDO Zone 'A' rating for woody biomass.

The London Laurel County Economic Development Authority, Ecostrat and the BDO Zone Initiative are pleased to announce the issue of a BDO Zone 'A' Rating for Laurel County, Kentucky. The BDO Zone is rated for 342,000 bone dry tons per year of low-risk woody biomass and spans a 75-mile drive radius from its central point in London, Kentucky...

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Unlocking locally abundant feedstocks for Europe's chemical industry

At a time when Europe's chemical industry is facing plant closures, volatile feedstock prices, and intensifying global competition, Berlin-based Level Nine has raised EUR 4 mil in Seed funding to unlock locally abundant non-fossil feedstocks for the production of industrial chemicals.

The company develops AI-designed catalysts that convert biomass into high-performance chemical intermediates, reducing the industry's dependency on volatile international markets...

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Aurivo announces €12m investment in wood pellet-powered system at Roscommon plant

Aurivo Co-operative Society is to invest €12 million in a first-of-its-kind wood pellet burner and boiler system at its dairy ingredients facility in Ballaghaderreen.

Funded by the Shared Island Sustainability Capital Grant scheme delivered by Enterprise Ireland, InterTradeIreland and Invest Northern Ireland, the new boiler system will expand the facility's use of renewable biomass and replace a large proportion of the fossil fuel currently consumed onsite.

Approximately 140 people are employed by Aurivo in Ballaghaderreen, including 100 at its dairy ingredients facility on the Dublin Road.

The company said the new biomass system will provide greater energy cost certainty and support local employment across construction, engineering and the wider supply chain...

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Biorefinery



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Reopened bioethanol plant may not support farming businesses

The government has announced a package of measures to temporarily restart the Ensus bioethanol plant, but it does not appear to be conditional on the use of British wheat.

A temporary restart of the Ensus bioethanol plant on Teesside to shore up supplies of CO₂ during the Middle East conflict will bring important stability for the areas of the supply chain that use the byproduct for processing and packaging.

British wheat not prioritised

However, NFU Crops Board Chair Jamie Burrows said it was disappointing that the £100 million government investment was not contingent on operators using British wheat to support farming businesses...

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EIB and Eni sign €500 million in financing for new biorefinery in Sannazzaro de' Burgondi



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The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Eni signed a 15-year loan for €500 million to convert selected units of Eni's Sannazzaro de' Burgondi refinery, located in the Italian province of Pavia, into a biorefinery. The agreement was signed by EIB Vice-President Gelsomina Vigliotti and Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi.

The project involves converting the refinery's Hydrocracker (HDC2) unit using Ecofining™ technology, and building a pre-treatment plant for waste materials like used cooking oils and animal fats, as well as waste from the agri-food industry, which comprise the main feedstock used by Enilive (Eni's company devoted to achieving more sustainable mobility) to produce hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) biofuels.

With its proprietary Ecofining™ technology, Enilive produces HVO – a biofuel made from renewable feedstocks (pursuant to the EU Renewable Energy Directive) such as used cooking oils and waste from the agri-food industry. Pure HVO can be used in approved engines, and is already available at more than 1 600 Enilive service stations across Europe...

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Waste

Gloucestershire Energy from Waste community fund opens

The Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility, also known as Javelin Park, has launched its 2026 community fund, offering grants to groups and parish organisations for projects that deliver environmental, social, or community benefits.

The scheme offers a pot of £25,000, to support projects in Hunts Grove, Hardwicke, Quedgeley, Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Haresfield, Harescombe, Standish, Moreton Valence and Whitminster.

Juergen Schaper, operations director (energy division) at FCC Environment, said:

‘The community fund has made a meaningful impact on local initiatives, helping to bring important projects to life and we’re thrilled to be opening applications for another year.’

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Kanadevia Inova lines up Swiss WTE installation

Kanadevia Inova AG says it has received a provisional acceptance certificate (PAC) from to provide a combustion and boiler system at the new KEBAG Enova Emmenspitz waste-to-energy (WTE) plant in Zuchwil, Switzerland.

The new WTE facility will replace an existing Emmenspitz facility that has been in operation for more than 40 years, says the technology vendor. Zurich-based Kanadevia Inova will supply the technology to Zurich-based Kenova AG, the operator of the plants. Once fully operational, the new plant will accept approximately 220,000 tons of source-separated municipal solid waste (MSW) and commercially generated waste annually...

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Derby food waste collections go live next week as city turns waste into energy



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Derby City Council has partnered with Severn Trent Green Power to process food waste collected from around 100,000 homes across the city, transforming it into renewable energy at a local facility. From 31 March, weekly food waste collections will begin, marking a major step forward in reducing black bin waste and supporting a more sustainable Derby.

Food waste collected in Derby will be treated at Severn Trent Green Power’s anaerobic digestion facility. As a gas-to-grid plant, it converts food waste into renewable energy that is injected into the national gas network to power homes and businesses. In just a year, it is estimated Derby’s food waste will generate enough energy to power more than 1,000 homes.

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Events

14th - 15th April 2026

**Biofuels International Conference
& Expo 2026**

Barcelona, Spain

[Click here for more information](#)

21st - 23th April 2026

Argus Biomass Conference

London, UK

[Click here for more information](#)

12th - 14th May 2026

BIOINNOVASIA 2026

Tokyo, Japan

[Click here for more information](#)

1st - 3rd June 2026

**International Conference on
Renewable Resources &
Biorefineries**

Leuven, Belgium

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19th - 22th June 2026

**34th European Biomass
Conference and Exhibition 2026**

The Hague, Netherlands

[Click here for more information](#)

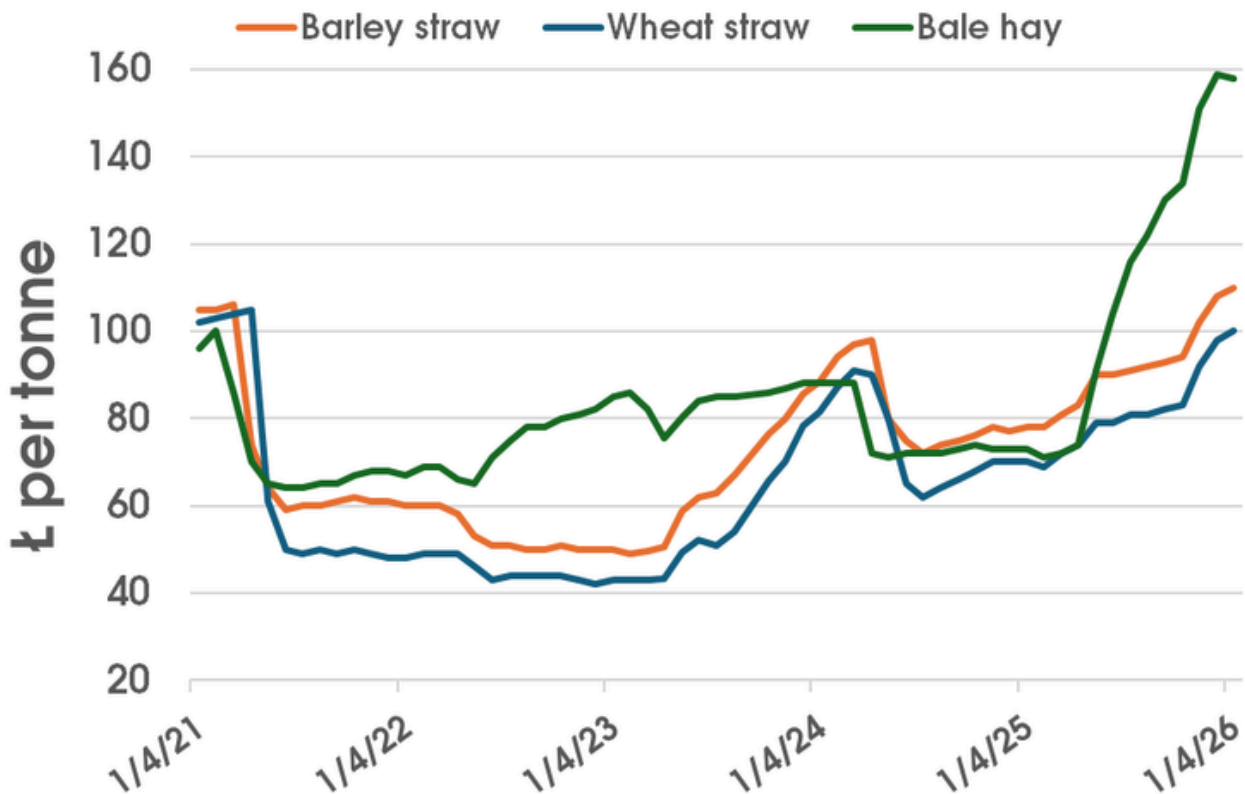
Feedstock prices

UK spot prices of bagged wood pellets, delivered. Grain and oilseed prices are across all main regions of the UK.

	Wood Pellets	Milling wheat	Feed wheat	Feed barley	Oilseed rape
	£/kg, 5% VAT	£/tonne, ex-farm	£/tonne, ex-farm	£/tonne, ex-farm	£/tonne, ex-farm
High	0.44	182.00	186.00	222.00	462.00
Low	0.35	182.00	162.00	147.00	163.00
Average	0.39	182.00	170.90	160.45	420.36

For wood pellets prices we consider UK pellet traders advertised selling prices.
For details on grains and oilseed prices, see [Farmers Weekly](#).

Monthly prices of ex-farm Hay and Straw in England and Wales. Prices shown are for 5 years up to April 2026.



Source: British Hay and Straw Merchants' Association, Defra

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Alder BioInsights is a leading international consultancy with expertise on the conversion of biomass to bioenergy, biofuels and biobased products.

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