

August 2026

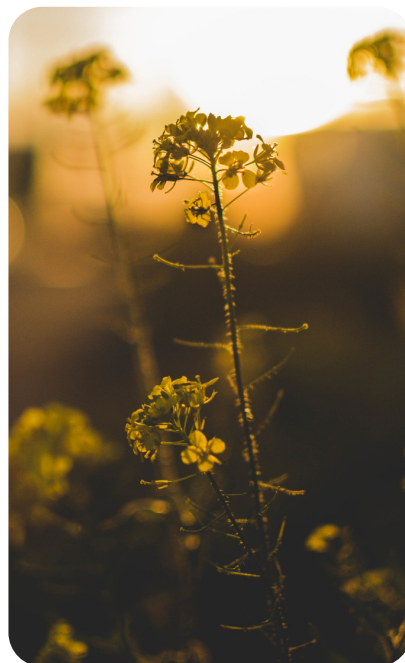
Feedstocks

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.



The Met Office warns that the UK is on track to experiencing its hottest summer on record, with temperatures climbing into the high 30s multiple times across the country since June. The National Fire Chiefs Council declared July 2026 the busiest month on record for wildfires, while landmark waterways have begun to dry out for the first time since records began. Reservoirs are now emptying at a higher rate than anticipated and soil moisture deficit is rising dangerously fast, reaching record levels in north-east, central, south-east and south-west England. Britain has now officially entered a period of drought which is affecting arable farms and crop production, and which will ultimately impact feedstock arisings and procurement.

At the very end of last month, the Environmental Agency declared a state of drought in seven areas of England, covering most of the southern half of the country, and including East Anglia where most of England's crop production arises. While much of the rest of the country is still categorised under "prolonged dry weather status", all British arable farms are being hit hard. It is expected that Britain will perform its worst cereal harvest since 1984, with a predicted loss in revenue rising to around £390 million across the sector. Hot and dry conditions have – of course – not been limited to the UK, with countries all over the world experiencing a record-breaking summer and a number of consecutive heatwaves. As such, markets are bearing the brunt of the impact, with prices soaring compared to previous years as mounting demand puts pressure on a dwindling offer. The current geopolitical context is adding further complications, with energy and fertiliser costs stagnating at high levels due to the wars in Ukraine and Iran.

These trends illustrate the significance of global warming on the world's economy, and show that the consequences of a changing climate are *on par* with the consequences of political conflicts. Furthermore, the fallout of global climate change creates a positive feedback loop which renders the roll-out of sustainable alternatives more difficult: heat and drought impact crop cultivation, leading to a reduction in feedstocks production, and ultimately negatively impacting the production of green energy which could mitigate climate change. As such, while support from Government is urgently needed, it is also crucial to develop farming practices which promote climate resilient habitats where soils remain rich and healthy, and where crop diversity is valorised, to ensure both food and feedstock security going forward.



Our bioeconomy lexicon continues to be a popular resource for many of our followers and industry colleagues.

The lexicon includes over 200 widely used terms, clearly defining each of them and providing advice regarding their use. This is also an interactive tool, allowing users to suggest terms they would like to see included.

If you follow us on LinkedIn then keep an eye out for our weekly featured terms and insights chosen by our team. If you're not following us, then you can find us here:



Market

Australia remains the most important EU supplier of rapeseed



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Australia maintained its position as the European Union (EU)'s leading rapeseed supplier in 2025/26, Germany's Union for the Promotion of Plants and Protein (UFOP) wrote.

The country held its position despite an approximately 41% year-on-year drop in shipments to the EU from 3.5M tonnes in 2024/25 to 2.14M tonnes, the 23 July report said.

Ukraine was the next leading supplier, with deliveries to the bloc of 1.6M tonnes, a 34% year-on-year decline.

EU imports from Canada also declined to 870,000 tonnes from 1.1M tonnes the previous year.

[Click here for more information](#)

Wood & Crops

Rwanda moves closer to releasing first biotech crops

Rwanda is edging closer to approving the country's first biotech crop varieties, a move expected to help farmers tackle devastating crop diseases, pests and climate-related challenges. Geographic Reference

The crops under consideration include genetically modified cassava, Irish potato and maize varieties developed to address some of the most persistent constraints affecting agricultural productivity in the country.

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Drought-hit Britain heads for worst cereal harvest in four decades

The United Kingdom is heading toward its worst cereal harvest since comparable records began in 1984, following one of the hottest and driest growing seasons on record.

According to a new analysis by the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) based on preliminary estimates from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), the country could lose as much as 2.5 million metric tons of cereals and oilseeds compared with earlier forecasts. The findings highlight how extreme weather is increasingly reshaping agricultural production and global grain markets.

[Click here for more information](#)

Drought declared across England's key farming regions

Half of England has officially been declared in drought, with arable farmers in particular facing mounting pressure after one of the driest Julys on record and an exceptionally early harvest.

The Environment Agency (EA) has declared drought across seven areas of England – East Anglia, Hertfordshire and the whole of London, the Thames Valley, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Devon and Cornwall, the West Midlands and Wessex (covering Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire and south Gloucestershire).

Several other areas remain in prolonged dry weather status.



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Camelina research tests whether the crop can remain genuinely low-input

The environmental sustainability of biofuel feedstocks has gained increasing attention in recent years, particularly in response to evolving European Union (EU) energy policies. Within the EU, the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) allows the use of non-food/feed crops cultivated on severely degraded lands or those grown as intermediate crops for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production, given that sustainability criteria are fulfilled.

[Click here for the full article](#)

Global maize and oilseed feedstock prices rise as weather and geopolitics tighten markets

The benchmark global food commodity index edged higher in July as increases in the price indices for cereals, sugar and vegetable oils were partially offset by declines in those for meat and dairy products, according to the latest report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

The FAO Food Price Index (FPI) averaged 131.1 points in July, up 0.7 points (0.6%) from the previous month. Compared to a year earlier, the FPI stood 1.3 points (1%) higher but remained 29.1 points (18%) below its peak reached in March 2022.

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Biorefinery

PACE launches Europe's first full-scale retrofitted biorefinery to transform potato juice into biofuels

A new European flagship project is set to demonstrate at industrial scale, how an underutilised side-stream from the potato processing industry can become a valuable source of sustainable chemicals.

PACE (Potato Juice to Fatty Acids for New Bio-based Value-Chains in Europe) will demonstrate a first-of-its-kind flagship biorefinery by retrofitting part of Royal Avebe's existing production facility.

Using advanced fermentation and microbial chain elongation, the facility will convert potato juice side-streams into valuable biobased medium-chain fatty acids.

The project represents an important step toward reducing Europe's dependency on fossil and palm oil-based chemistry while strengthening local, circular value chains. By integrating circular solutions into existing industrial infrastructure, PACE demonstrates how industrial side-streams can be transformed into scalable and commercially relevant chemical building blocks.

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Falkirk area residents can give their views on plans for big biorefinery on their doorstep

Celtic Renewables Ltd are proposing a major planning application for the development of a biorefinery, with ancillary office space, the installation of plant, energy and process infrastructure and associated works at the former Versalis site, to the west of the A904 Grangemouth Road, Grangemouth.

[Click here for more information](#)

Bioethanol

Whisky by-product could help produce sustainable bioethanol

Researchers at Heriot-Watt University have joined a project exploring whether a by-product of whisky production can be converted into bioethanol using technology originally developed for space missions.

The three-year initiative, led by Scottish biotechnology company Take Root Bio, is investigating how lactose-rich whey permeate, a waste product from cheese production and whisky distilling, can be transformed into a renewable fuel and other high-value products.

The project combines Heriot-Watt's expertise in industrial biotechnology with microbial technology developed by Take Root Bio. The company's engineered microorganisms were originally designed to support long-duration space exploration by converting waste into useful resources, but are now being adapted for terrestrial applications.

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Waste feedstock trade reroutes as US soybean oil biofuel demand keeps climbing

The global waste-feedstock map is being redrawn, and the evidence is already in the customs record rather than just in forecasts. US imports of used cooking oil fell 38 percent year on year, led by a 67 percent collapse in Chinese-origin volume from 1,124 thousand tonnes to 368 thousand tonnes. Malaysia, up 38 percent, and Vietnam, up 186 percent, backfilled only part of the gap, so total US UCO supply from imports still contracted.

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Energy

Pig slurry powers AI in new farm income venture

A pig farm in north-west England is using electricity generated from slurry-fed anaerobic digestion to power artificial-intelligence computers under a diversification model promising farmers higher energy returns.

Easy Compute has begun placing high-performance computing equipment at farms and other renewable-energy sites through its Green Compute network.

The company builds, installs and operates the hardware, which businesses can rent for AI and other computing-intensive work.

Anaerobic digestion breaks down slurry and other organic material to produce biogas.

That gas can then be used in a combined heat and power unit to generate electricity, some of which is being used on the farm to run computer servers.

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Oman launches camelina pilot using recycled water to advance sustainable biofuel production

Nama Water Services has launched a pilot project to cultivate camelina, a crop widely used in sustainable biofuel production, in partnership with Hema Energy as part of efforts to advance environmental sustainability and support Oman's green economy ambitions.

The project will use recycled water to irrigate camelina, demonstrating how treated wastewater can be repurposed as a strategic resource to promote sustainable development. The initiative is expected to enhance water and food security, reduce carbon emissions, and support the transition to cleaner energy sources.

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Waste

Pirelli leads European "tyre-to-tyre" drive as industry giants turn waste tyres into new raw materials

A major step toward a circular tyre industry has been launched in Europe as Pirelli, Pyrum, Synthos, and BASF partner on a groundbreaking "tyre-to-tyre" initiative that transforms end-of-life and scrap tyres into high-quality recycled materials for new products.

Coordinated by Pirelli, the project brings together four industrial leaders to create a traceable, large-scale recycling chain designed to recover the hidden value inside discarded tyres and return those materials to new tyre production.

[Click here for more information](#)

Wood

UK wood pellet demand forecast to reach a record 10.35 million tonnes

In 2026, the United Kingdom (UK) is expected to remain the largest global consumer of imported wood pellets. In calendar year (CY) 2026, consumption is forecast to reach a record 10.35 million metric tons (MMT), requiring an estimated 10.15 MMT in imports - driven by strong demand for renewable power.

The United States accounts for the vast majority of UK wood pellet imports. In 2026 the UK government announced a mandatory supply chain due diligence regime for forest-risk commodities and the development of a Common Biomass Sustainability Framework (CBSF), which carry significant implications for U.S. exporters. In 2025, consumption reached 9.95 MMT, with the biomass energy sector providing from 7 to as high as 17 percent of total UK electricity generation, depending on concurrent energy generation from other renewable sources.

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UK regulator extends waste wood storage permissions

Operators can apply to exceed their permitted storage levels until 31 March 2027.

The RPS 361 regulatory statement was previously due to end on 31 July 2026.

It applies to the temporary storage of waste wood that exceed the limits in a permit and is destined for incineration, biomass or panel board manufacture in quantities.

The RPS applies when unplanned downtime at the destination energy-from-waste incineration plant, biomass plant or panel board plant places pressure on waste storage capacity.

The extension follows discussions between the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) and the Environment Agency, in light of increased waste wood volumes putting strain on the sector.

[Click here for more information](#)

Events

20th - 21st October 2026

Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026

Dublin, Ireland

[Click here for more information](#)

3rd - 5th November 2026

**S&P World Biofuels, Ethanol and
Feedstocks Conference**

Barcelona, Spain

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Biocentre, York Science Park, Innovation Way, Heslington, York YO10 5NY

+44 (0) 1904 217 182 | enquiries@alderbioinsights.co.uk

alderbioinsights.co.uk