To the Committee

As a retired farmer I would like to comment on the 2 biomass boilers and A D Plant which have been introduced to the farm by my son

The 2 biomass boilers heating 10 properties use 250 – 300 tonnes of timber from our sandland woodland which in the past sold for £ 18 by road side, costing £ 20 to fell and cart. The result was that nothing was done in my days and woodland fell into total neglect and men not employed in the woods. Now the farm staff are retained and fell timber in the winter months to be stored outside for 18 months, then to be chipped by outside contractors and stored in a barn no longer required by the farm.
The chips at 30% moisture produce 2400 KWH of heat per tonne, earning about 8p per KWH from grant and sales.
The net result , woodland improved, valuable men given a worthwhile job in the winter and retained. Income is sufficient to justify the expenditure on the furnace and replant of the woodland after felling.

The A. D. Plant was put in by outside investors, we supply 5,000 tonnes of maize 20% of the feed stock and take all the digestate, dry and wet at a total of 40,000 tonnes. This will supply the total requirement of fertilizer for the entire 600 hectare farm growing 50% vegetables and will build up the fertility of the very light land farm, so improving water retention and hopefully reducing some of the irrigation water.
(Note:- the feed stock is totally vegetable matter so digestate can be applied to vegetable crops)
Growing maize for A D Plants is now considered by many to be wrong, but in our case getting back this enormous tonnage of dry matter for the sand land farm fully justifies the project and has created additional employment on the farm and at the A.D. Plant.

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