



Top-level Research Initiative Sustainable Biofuels

Bio-energy can contribute to decreased reliance on fossil fuels, improved energy security and decreased CO₂ emissions, and simultaneously provide new business and employment opportunities and be a driver in rural and regional development.

There are, however, some concerns about the sustainability of the current bio-energy policy. This necessitates a general development regarding raw materials and production and use of traditional bio-energy, but also concerted efforts in development of new approaches, concepts and technologies regarding future bio-energy solutions.

The objective of the sub-programme is to promote the development of new, innovative and sustainable forms of bio-energy, as well as to enhance the development of Nordic R&D institutions and businesses within the bio-energy field.

The focus in this sub-programme will be placed on Nordic user-driven research projects and the following will be addressed:

feed-stocks: lignocellulose biomass from forests and agriculture including residues and by-products

processes: bio-ethanol production and thermal, chemical and/or biological gasification

end products: bio-based fuels (liquid or gas) for the transport sector

The sub-programme will launch a call in October 2009.

There will be a two stage application procedure, where the overall ambition is to find and finance collaborative integrated research projects focusing on technological bottlenecks and exploring new opportunities leading to innovative break-through technologies.

The budget for the programme is approximately 30 MNOK over five years.



Top-level Research Initiative

– a major Nordic venture for climate, energy and the environment

The world's major climate and energy challenges demand new knowledge and innovations. The Nordic countries are particularly well placed to contribute to this, due to their high level of education, political will to act, and abundance of natural resources.

The Top-level Research Initiative was initiated by the Nordic Prime Ministers in 2008, and is supported by national institutions and agencies, in particular those financing research and innovation. The initiative will promote research and innovation of the highest level, involving the very best agencies and institutions. Great importance is attached to a close partnership with business and industry to ensure application and utilisation of research results.

The Top-level Research Initiative shall provide a platform for increased international cooperation both within the EU and beyond.

The initiative will last for five years. Calls for proposals begin in the autumn of 2009.

Top-level Research Initiative Programmes:

- 1 Effect Studies and Adaptation to Climate Change
- 2 Climate Changes' Interaction with the Cryosphere
- 3 Integration of Large-scale Wind Power
- 4 Sustainable Biofuels
- 5 Nanotechnology and Energy Efficiency
- 6 Carbon Capture and Storage

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