

PUBLIC CONSULTATION LETTER - BIOECONOMY

I have answered all the relevant questions posed in the bioeconomy action plan. My recommendations and opinions are listed below. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

QUESTION 1

I am satisfied that the outlined pillars are a substantial representation of the necessary focus points in the bioeconomy. However, I do think that the weighting of attention for these pillars should not be distributed evenly.

I think some pillars hold much greater importance than others. For example, 'Nature, Climate and Circular' should hold the most attention. Environmental maintenance is an issue which has not yet been substantially catered for. This is an issue which could have devastating effects beyond national borders if action is not taken.

I think an emphasis should be placed on this aspect as every other pillar is assumed once we maintain a habitable planet for all life.

QUESTION 2

There are a number of KPI's (Key performance indicators) which I think should be considered in order to effectively measure the performance of the implementations.

Monitoring the number of people who know about the bioeconomy plan and who input their opinions is a good way to measure awareness.

Another would be, what percentage of production line's waste has further use in other production lines?

Research, development and innovation will aid this bioeconomy growth massively. I think it's a relatively new idea and there is somewhat of a lack of educational paths which convey this information. Economic development with emphasis on sustainability is an unfamiliar concept among traditional courses. I think further development of programs will produce more innovative and knowledgeable personnel to add to this aspect. This is a great way to measure and predict the successes of these implementations.

QUESTION 3

I think the governance pillar should deal with the management and maintenance of all 6 other pillars. The governance pillar should look at each pillar and decide the KPI's for each pillar and goals for these pillars. Continuous monitoring of these KPI's is essential and subsequent development of the plan should be made in order to maximise potential success.

QUESTION 4

As mentioned above, developing more educational pathways into the bioeconomy sector is a crucial issue that this pillar needs to address. Research, development and innovation require expertise. This expertise should be sourced locally to take advantage of our young population and our great level of education capabilities.

As well as this, I think incentives for corporations who innovate processes or products which benefit the bioeconomy should be enhanced. Pushing enterprises both public and private to innovate will create jobs, improve our economy and have a positive impact on the environment. These incentives could be in the form of tax rate reduction or capital funding to push new companies into this sector.

QUESTION 5

My answer to this question is included in the answer above.

QUESTION 6

Focus should be on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, using by-products of a product system for other processes which have minimal impact on the environment, avoiding single use products, producing sufficient quantities of energy through non harmful processes, and protecting natural resources including both flora and fauna.

QUESTION 7

Energy production is a huge issue which needs to be tackled immediately. The potential for more renewable energy production in Ireland is huge. I note the development of multiple off-shore wind farms but I think more needs to be done in terms of energy production.

The market for single use products is another issue which needs to be addressed. Penalties should be issued to companies which facilitate the destructive habit of single use products. While incentives for the development of other solutions should be administered.

QUESTION 8

The maintenance of wildlife populations should be a key attention point for this pillar.

Soil degradation through overuse should also be monitored to ensure the soil stays nutrient rich to produce abundance of food for a prolonged period of time. Sea life should be given sufficient time to replenish itself to avoid extinction of animals. This length of time should be monitored and decisions made should be backed by substantial research.

QUESTION 9

Improving the population distribution of this nation should be a key issue for this pillar. The development of sites which maximise the use of other biological resources should be widespread throughout the country. Through more energy production sites, research and development centres and other processing facilities, more communities nationwide can benefit from the development of the bioeconomy.

QUESTION 10

I think there should be more of a cross reference made in these aspects. But I don't know exactly what the regional and local policies are in relation to this.

QUESTION 11

The Industry & Enterprise pillar should deal with sourcing funding for development and research on the bioeconomy industry, ease of transition from research and development to commercialisation, tax relief and benefits for enterprises which benefit the bioeconomy and the source of energy for these industries.

QUESTION 12

As discussed above, incentives for enterprises which commercialise an aspect of the bioeconomy. As well as a joint venture between third level education and both local and regional authorities to maximise the development of the bioeconomy through an educated workforce. Support by capital or resources to private enterprises who progress the nation's progress towards 2030 and 2050 plans.

QUESTION 13

Growth in all aspects of our economy is required to facilitate the growth outlined in the bioeconomy plan. Ireland needs to be a pioneer in optimising the bioeconomy in order to gain traction from other nations. Leading by example will grow the nation's reputation with regards to the bioeconomy. This would improve funding and investment from other countries while also encouraging the educated to come and work in this sector, therefore adding to our resources. Exporting bio products which would be developed could have a major financial impact on this sector.

QUESTION 14

Mapping our new courses and educational pathways which teach the importance and potential of the bioeconomy. Make this more known to the public with an emphasis being portrayed on the future of this industry being very bright.

A cultural change is needed to maximise the growing potential of this sector. A cultural change happens with exposure to information at all ages. Different demographics of people are exposed to different stimuli and information. Through optimising these demographics with tailor fitted

information a cultural change can take place. If educational pathways are brought forward in coordination with this new information, the public will see these opportunities and a new niche in the market can begin to flourish.

QUESTION 15

I think the regional skills and regional enterprise approaches better support bioeconomy development as although the bioeconomy is a nation wide object, true development comes from the roots of the country which lie in the regions of the country. Power to the people is a great saying which fits nicely here.

Any scheme or funding can be provided by the government but to truly maximise the potential of the bioeconomy regional aspects need to be developed.

QUESTION 16

Advisory systems are the backbone of any big project and the development of the bioeconomy is no different.

This is a relatively new plan and therefore guidance is crucial to ensure the trajectory of the implementations are in line with the project's goals. As well as looking at the data collected over the next few years to determine if strategies and methods were successful or not. An advisory system can make alterations in the advice and guidance to give a better chance at successful development of the bioeconomy in years to come.

QUESTION 17

I think Ireland has the potential to be a pioneer in the bioeconomy development sector.

With this responsibility comes great opportunities to share knowledge and understanding of this topic to other countries in Europe and worldwide. I think Ireland has a great chance to make big advancements in their bioeconomy and I think were this to be the case, a joint effort with other nations to improve their bioeconomy would not only improve international relations but also benefit the planet as a whole. Without a thriving planet and ecosystem there will be no humanity to have these discussions.

I think governments and people in general tend to focus on the monetary aspect of things and sometimes overlook the bigger picture, in this case the environment. This tends to be especially true amongst less developed countries as they have some lack in economic power compared to other nations. So I think improving the bioeconomy will subconsciously make these countries more focused on the environmental side of things while they also inevitably try to boost their economy.

QUESTION 18

The five priorities for action in the bioeconomy in my opinion should be;

1. Reduce the amount of energy produced through fossil fuels and put an emphasis on clean energy.

2. Reduce the production of single use plastics to a minimum, or none at all if possible. Put emphasis on reusable or biodegradable items which carry the same function as plastic based products.
3. Create more funnels in the education system to provide better knowledge and understanding of the bioeconomy. This will build the educated workforce needed to utilise this sector of the economy.
4. Push the radial dispersal of jobs and careers in the bioeconomy all around the country. This would have benefits on the housing crises and other overpopulation issues within the capital hitherto.
5. Create more entrepreneurship incentives to push more private owned companies into this section of the economy. This will create more jobs and more competition in this field which will lead to exponential growth among all aspects of the bioeconomy.