

Global bioenergy- a stepping stone to a sustainable future or a key component for the foreseeable future?

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Support for bioenergy has been declining since the economic and food price crises of 2008/09. This lack of support has become evident in recent policy decisions in the European Union and elsewhere. But are the negative perceptions based on fact or fiction? Using a new global model called 'The Global Calculator' the potential role of bioenergy as a tool for climate mitigation and adaptation can be explored within a wider sustainable development context. For example, the Global Calculator can chart pathways illustrating how, by 2050, 10 billion people could eat well, have better mobility, live in more comfortable homes and at the same time emissions could be reduced to levels consistent with a 50% chance of 2°C warming. The technical and organisational innovations, lifestyle choices, policies and investments needed to achieve this future with and without bioenergy will be explored.

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