

## ***Amsterdam prepares for growth in biomass imports***

In late November the port of Amsterdam announced that it was gearing up for a boom in biomass volumes as the result of an increasing focus on renewable energy and new Dutch government proposals. Currently major Dutch ports handle a total of 1.5 million tonnes of biomass each year – notably wood chips and wood pellets – but as a result of the growing requirement for biomass in North European countries, this is expected to increase to around 13.5Mt/yr by 2020.

Amsterdam already imports some biomass from source countries including Canada, the US and Brazil but it expects annual volumes to reach 6Mt within the next eight years. To meet the anticipated growth in this sector, the port will allow existing fossil fuel terminals to expand but will not allow the building of any new ones as it increases its focus on bio-energy. Koen Overtoom, managing director of the commercial department at the port of Amsterdam, says the growth in European biomass demand is largely due to moves by Germany to phase out nuclear power stations by 2022 and an increased emphasis by other European countries on energy sources that are less polluting than fossil fuels.

[www.portofamsterdam.nl](http://www.portofamsterdam.nl)