

First renewable energy exchange opens in Amsterdam

November 3 2011



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"The first biomass exchange in the world has officially been opened," Eric-Jan Hadderingh, spokesman for APX-Endex, told AFP.

"APX-Endex decided to be the first exchange in the world to launch exchange-traded certified wood pellet contracts," in Amsterdam, an APX-Endex statement added.

Operating as a regular exchange, but only open on Monday and Thursday afternoons, its owners hope to attract a dozen firms, including "large energy companies" to trade on its floor, APX-Endex said.

"We had already in 2008 launched an index for wood pellets but there was a demand for a place of real trade," Hadderingh said, pointing out that biomass was a growth market.

The venture has the backing of Europe's largest port, Rotterdam, which helped with its development and will serve as a biomass storage facility until it can be transported to processing plants.

Environmental group [Greenpeace](#) said the export of wooden pellets from Canada to Europe increased 700 percent in less than eight years.

Biomass is the term used for organic [plant material](#) including wood cuttings and pellets and [agricultural waste](#), processed to produce energy considered to be "carbon neutral" in emissions.

But Greenpeace warned in a report Wednesday that burning [forest biomass](#) on a large scale was actually more polluting than petrol or coal.

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Citation: First renewable energy exchange opens in Amsterdam (2011, November 3) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-11-renewable-energy-exchange-amsterdam.html>

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