

Press Release

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Successful conclusion of the Bioeconomy Council's third term

After three years of intensive work, the third term of the Federal Government's Bioeconomy Council is coming to an end. The outcome is positive: the Council was able to support the federal government in matters relating to the bioeconomy with a wide range of position papers and recommendations for action to implement the National Bioeconomy Strategy (NBÖS). The chairwomen would like to see more speed in the transformation towards a sustainable bioeconomy.

The Bioeconomy Council crowned its advisory work with the Bioeconomy Forum in Berlin at the beginning of December. The presence of Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economics Robert Habeck, Federal Minister of Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger and Federal Minister of Agriculture Cem Özdemir emphasised the growing relevance of the bioeconomy at national level. Chairwomen Prof Dr Daniela Thrän and Prof Dr Iris Lewandowski are satisfied with their term of office. "Through events such as the forums and workshops, the Bioeconomy Council has made a contribution to promoting the public debate on the bioeconomy and to networking the specialist community," says Daniela Thrän. "Our recommendations for action are now being incorporated into the implementation plan for the national bioeconomy strategy," reports Iris Lewandowski.

Strong driver for the national bioeconomy strategy

In 2020, the third Bioeconomy Council was tasked with supporting the federal government in implementing the NBÖS. In the following three years, the 20 council members from science, business and society identified specific fields of action and formulated 57 recommendations for action for the NBÖS. They dealt in particular with sustainable land and land use, measures and innovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the raw materials transition and the creation of reliable framework conditions for sustainable innovations in the bioeconomy. This also includes scaling up bioeconomic processes to an industrial scale more quickly. Through dialogue and participation, the promotion of technical and social innovations and the diversification of land management, solutions can be found to successfully implement a sustainable bioeconomy within planetary boundaries.

Reliable consulting partner

In addition to position papers and background papers, the Bioeconomy Council was also able to provide advice in times of crisis, for example on the importance of the bioeconomy in connection with the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against the Ukraine. The statement proposes medium and long-term measures to make agricultural production more resilient, strengthen food sovereignty in Germany, Europe and the global South and reduce dependence on energy and raw material imports.

Upscaling for the implementation of a sustainable bioeconomy

The Bioeconomy Council has initiated many things, but the work is of course not yet complete, emphasises the Council chairs. Work on implementing a sustainable bioeconomy must continue at full speed in the future.

"For the bioeconomy to actually reach the economic level, sustainable bioeconomic processes need to be scaled up to an industrial level quickly. We need to involve young people much more in decision-making and advisory bodies," demands Daniela Thrän. Iris Lewandowski adds: "The implementation of a sustainable bioeconomy must be accelerated by utilising opportunities, removing obstacles and, above all, thinking in terms of opportunities. This also means recognising sufficiency as an opportunity".

The work of the Bioeconomy Council in figures

In its third term from 2020 to 2023, the Bioeconomy Council has carried out a wide range of activities to advance the bioeconomy in Germany. These include:

- Participation of councillors in 74 external events
- 57 Recommendations for action
- 39 Meetings of internal working groups
- 19 workshops with external experts
- 13 Council meetings
- 6 Background papers
- 3 Statements
- 2 Bioeconomy forums
- 2 Position papers

Downloads:

- [Bioeconomy Council's first recommendations for action](#)
- [Follow-up report on the Bioeconomy Forum 4-5 December 2023](#)

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About the Bioeconomy Council

In 2009, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) established a Bioeconomy Council for the first time as an advisory body to the Federal Government. Its task was to provide important suggestions for the National Research Strategy Bioeconomy 2030 and the National Policy Strategy Bioeconomy. In December 2020, the third Bioeconomy Council was appointed, consisting of 20 experts from science, industry and society. As an independent and neutral body, the Bioeconomy Council advises the federal government on the implementation of the strategy in the form of recommendations and statements, while also promoting public debate on the bioeconomy.

About the role of the VDI Technology Centre

On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the VDI Technology Centre has been managing the office of the Bioeconomy Council in Berlin since June 2021. The office supports all activities of the members of the Bioeconomy Council - for example in public relations work, at events and in meetings and working groups. It is also the central point of contact for the Federal Ministries BMBF and BMEL and for all other enquiries to the Bioeconomy Council.