



BIOMASS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ❑ Biomass is more relevant for Heating than Power given relative conversion efficiencies and – with slow electrification of the heating sector - can form an important pillar of governments’ decarbonisation initiatives
- ❑ Biomass has failed to achieve similar penetration momentum to other (more technology-driven) renewable energy (RE) sources (PV, wind), but has nonetheless established its position within many countries’ diversified RE portfolios
- ❑ Biomass is a relatively heterogenous technology landscape – combustion, co-fired (biomass/coal), CHP/cogeneration, gasification vs. pyrolysis, energy-from-waste, anaerobic digestion (AD)
- ❑ Depending on geography and context, biomass is deployed in small- (home heating), medium- (e.g. commercial, district heating) and large-scale (coal-replacement power plant) settings
- ❑ Nonetheless, biomass has some long-term disadvantages:
 - Technology curves and intensity are significantly less steep
 - Proximity, security and price stability of feedstock is a critical element of project investment attractiveness
 - Controversy vis-à-vis sustainable/renewable “credentials” of some biomass sources
- ❑ ... and therefore appears to have less scope for becoming financially viable without some degree of government support
- ❑ The principal sector investment vehicles are developers / operators / projects, with established technologies (e.g. combustion) vastly easier to fund