Drax Independent Advisory Group
Thursday, 8th October 2026 in-person at Alder Castle Drax office, London
Timings: 9am to 5pm BST

Key reflections

Biomass and BECCS: The IAG recommended to Drax to retain biomass and bioenergy carbon capture and storage (BECCS) at the centre of its long-term value proposition while continuing to diversify its portfolio in the short term. Members debated that biomass is likely to remain an important component of a secure, low-carbon energy mix, particularly when combined with BECCS. They also noted that expansion into wind, solar, batteries and other activities could make Drax similar to its competitors, whereas biomass and BECCS could provide clearer differentiation.

The group supported exploring BECCS at a small or experimental scale to prove the technology and build capability. They suggested that Drax could work with existing European partners, including organisations able to transport and store captured CO2, rather than needing to acquire or build every capability itself.

Sustainability positioning and brand: The IAG suggested that Drax could strengthen its public sustainability positioning, take greater control of its narrative and consider whether its current brand is now supportive of its longer-term ambition and strategic direction.

The IAG suggested that Drax undertake a brand review to assess whether the current brand is sufficiently credible and attractive for a company seeking to lead in sustainability, while acknowledging that changing the name would not remove all scrutiny from the company.

To also strengthen its sustainability position, members suggested that Drax needs to control its own data, evidence and narrative more confidently. The IAG encouraged Drax to lead on subjects it can help shape the agenda of rather than responding to them. The IAG was supportive of Drax intentions to develop its forest carbon methodology and expressed a willingness to support the peer-review of it as well as advise how to position the methodology for external discussion.

Governance data and disclosures: The IAG identified a need to explain the financial and strategic value of sustainability more clearly to the ExCom, covering short-term market value, medium-term diversification and the longer-term value associated with biomass and BECCS.

The IAG asked Drax to ensure that TNFD, the Climate Transition Plan and other sustainability disclosures have a clear purpose at board level, including defined metrics, escalation routes and decision consequences. They recommended that the board could receive concise summaries and be able to understand how decisions cascade into operational behaviour rather than treating disclosure frameworks solely as compliance exercises.

Nature and Community Programmes

The IAG encouraged Drax to connect detailed site activity to strategic priorities and use common frameworks to demonstrate impact across the organisation. The group suggested using an "ecosystem-services frameworks" approach to bring nature, social and operational activities into a consistent and holistic structure. This would help ExCom, the board and external stakeholders,

including the public, see how site-level actions contribute to a common strategy and would provide a repeatable approach as Drax expands its facilities.