



● Criteria for Biomass sustainability

Workshop 18 March 2008

● Renewable Energy Directive

- Part of the package of energy and climate measures proposed on 23rd of January
- On **performance** of biomass
 - » Biofuel and bioliquid sustainability
 - » Building codes to promote high-efficiency of biomass for heating
 - » Commission to report on requirements for a biomass sustainability scheme by Dec 2010 (EU BAP also said Commission will look into this after biofuels)

● Are biofuels sustainability criteria *in RES-D* all relevant to biomass in general?

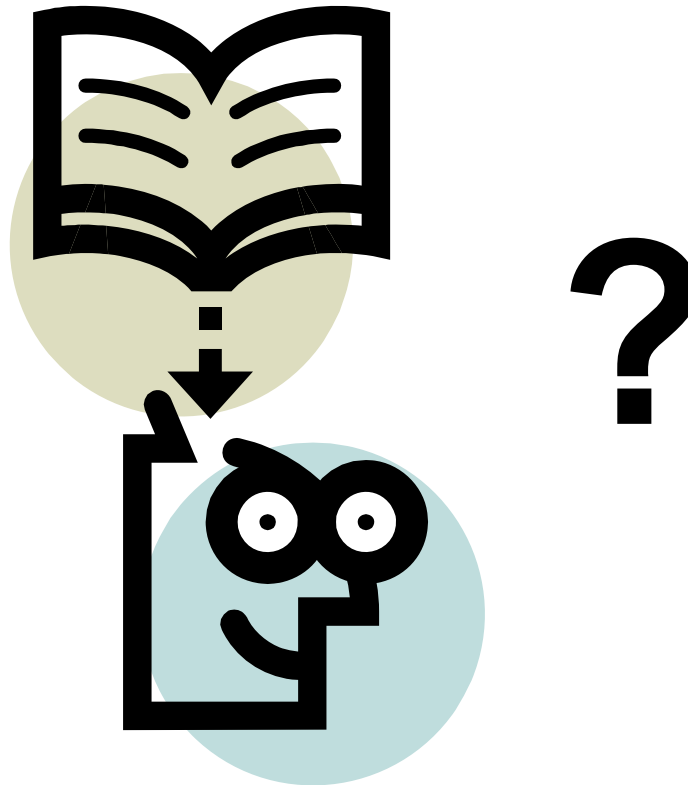
- 35% GHG saving relative to fossil fuel
- fuel comparator already determined for **bioliquids** to be used in heat and electricity

- No conversion of wetland or 'continuously forested area' (high Carbon stock)

- No raw material to be taken from high biodiverse lands

- *Cross-compliance ?*

- What other criteria needed to extend scheme to biomass??



Overview of recent developments in sustainable biomass certification Draft for comments

Table 7: Started initiatives for a biomass certification system (+ criteria are included, - criteria are not included²⁴)

Check list:	Green Gold Label	Electrabel Label	Government (BE)	UK-RTFO	Project group (NL)	EUGENE (EU)	RSPO
Type of biomass	Biomass (all), complete chain	Biomass (all), complete chain	Biomass certificate, energy generation	Biomass source for biofuels	Biomass (all)	Focus on end part of chain	Palm oil production, production side
Status	Certification in implementation, also in development	Certification in implementation, also in development	Green certificates linked to GHG / energy criteria	Establishment certification in development	Principles developed, testing phase C&I (pilot studies)	Actual label, adds extra principles for biomass in specific	Principles developed, testing phase C&I (pilot studies)
Principles included:							
GHG and Energy balance	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Biodiversity	+	-	-	- ²⁵	+	-	+
Competition of food supply, local sources	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Leakage	-	-	-	-	- ²⁶	-	-
Economic well-being	- ²⁷	-	-	- ¹⁸	+	-	+
Welfare / social criteria	- ¹⁶	-	-	- ¹⁸	+	-	+
Environmental criteria	+	+	-	- ¹⁸	+	+	+
Procedure and organization:							
Type of system	Track-and-trace Sourcing	Track-and-trace Sourcing	Cooperation with e.g. Electrabel, SGS	Track-and-trace Sourcing	Track-and-trace Sourcing	Track-and-trace Eligible sourcing	Track-and-trace Sourcing
Organization	Established by company Essent, now open for 3 rd parties	Label is developed by company Electrabel	Government provides green certificate based on criteria compliance	Initiated by government, organizational structure in process	Initiated by government, organizational structure in process	European Network of green energy labelling bodies	Roundtable with stakeholders in palm oil production
Verifier	Control Union	SGS	Independent 3 rd party verification	Requirements not yet determined	Requirements not yet determined	Independent 3 rd party verification	Verifier working group (in progress)
Relation to national policies	Stimulated by policy	Required by law	In regional policy (in development)	Plans to embed in national policy	Plans to embed in national policy	On voluntary basis	On voluntary basis
(Plans to) make use of existing systems	FSC, 'Organic' certification	Yes (e.g. FSC)	See Electrabel	Yes (e.g. FSC)	Will apply e.g. FSC, RSPO, GGL	Yes (e.g. FSC)	Makes use of existing systems

²⁴ This is a general overview. When a criterion is included (+), the level of detail in methodology, indicators etc. may still vary per certification system.

²⁵ With future development of the system, other sustainability principles (environmental and social criteria) will be addressed

²⁶ Currently investigated how to take this into account

²⁷ The inclusion of socio-economic principles are taken into consideration

● Main principles in existing schemes

- GHG balance
- Biodiversity
- Environmental criteria

Others:

- Resource competition
- Economic wellbeing
- Social criteria

● Main challenges with suggested principles:

- Translate them into legally meaningful, quantifiable and verifiable indicators, harmonised definitions of biomass (including waste) – important for legal clarity and certainty
- Develop reliable procedures and documentation for providing evidence of fulfilling the sustainability criteria
- Limit burden of verification/monitoring and transparency of standard setting and verification

● Principles/ Criteria to be considered:

- Default values for GHG savings – new feedstocks: forestry residues, biodegradable wastes (pathways should usually lead to more than 35% GHG savings)
- End use efficiency in heating and electricity – through GO system or bonus for efficient biomass (like 2nd generation) or banning boilers with low energy efficiency or not to take into account at all?
- Forestry management – harmonised system or recognition of existing schemes? Which ones? Or not to take into account at all?

● Are there specific verification issues?

- Is it more difficult to track consignments of biomass than agricultural crops?
- Member States to have primary responsibility for verification – could this be based on existing reporting procedures under forest management schemes?
- The Commission can decide that ‘certification schemes’ comply with the criteria

● Thank you –emese.kottasz@ec.europa.eu

