Enhancing the Implementation of Quality and Sustainability Standards and Certification Schemes for Solid Biofuels

SOLIDSTANDARDS

In the SolidStandards project, solid biofuel industry players will be informed and trained in the field of standards and certification and their feedback will be collected and provided to the related standardization committees and policy makers. The core of the action is the organization of 37 training events for producers and end-users of solid biofuels. Trainings aim at increasing the target groups’ ability to implement quality and sustainability standardization and certification. The consortium will work with 7 selected solid biofuel companies and support them in implementing European quality standards. The process will be documented and shall serve as a guideline for standard implementation. In order to contribute to the discussion on binding sustainability criteria for solid biofuels, project activities include the analysis of sustainability certification systems in case studies in order to assess their applicability in practice. Finally, the project contains several tools for feedback collection from the industry. This feedback will be collected, analysed and provided to European and national standardization organizations in Europe.

Results

- 35 training events on solid biofuel quality standards will be organized in 11 European countries. In total, 700 solid biofuel producers and other industry players will be trained in the implementation of European quality standards in the solid biofuel chain. This will result in the quick uptake of new EU standards within the solid biofuel industry.
- Practical experience with the implementation of EU standards in solid biofuel production processes will be gathered in cooperation with 7 industry partners. The experience will be gathered and published in order to facilitate replication and to further support the uptake of standards in the industry.
- In order to support policy decisions on the implementation of mandatory sustainability criteria for solid biofuels, existing sustainability schemes will be assessed and tested in practice. The involvement of stakeholder in decision processes will be facilitated through workshops and feedback collection.
- During training events and via online tools, feedback from stakeholders and their experience with existing standards will be collected. The collected feedback will be analyzed and provided to standardization bodies in order to contribute to the development of new standards and the improvement of existing standards.
- By making training materials publicly available and through several dissemination activities, the project aims at multiplying project results, thereby contributing to the implementation of EU standards all over Europe.
Lesson learned

- The basic conditions and the stage of development of the several solid biofuel sectors (woodchips, pellets, logwood) differ from one country to another in Europe. Therefore, it is quite important to adapt the training courses to the respective situation. In some countries, the use of standards for solid biomass is still voluntary and the market is still characterised by low awareness, while in other countries most solid biofuel producers are already applying the standards.
- There is certainly a need for training and discussion of the new European standards and sustainability criteria of solid biomass. Participants confirm that training courses explaining the content and use of standards are very useful for their businesses. Several training organisations, have shown that the training material is useful and will be used as part of the national bioenergy training course standards (e.g. in Finland). Few participants want to be deeply involved in the testing and further development of standards, especially when they would need to provide internal information to be published in public reports and workshops.
- Soon after starting to elaborate the training material for wood chips it became evident that the current European standards for general use of solid biomass (EN 14961-1, EN 15234-1) do not help market actors to declare their product in a simple way without analyses. In addition it seems that some of the standards do not match the needs of the stakeholders; some are even non-applicable (e.g. the wood chips particle distribution in EN 14961-4)

Partners and coordinator

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**Budget**

Overall budget: 1.353.106,00 € (EU contribution: 75,00 %)

**Key documents**

- [Summary Report on Training](#) [12]
  PDF 1.46 MB
- [Description of Training Concept](#) [13]
  ZIP 1.75 MB
- [Report certification alternatives](#) [14]
  ZIP 8.7 MB
- [Summary on training activities](#) [15]
  ZIP 1.32 MB

**In brief**

Sector: Biofuels

Duration: 01/04/2011 to 31/03/2014

Contract number: IEE/10/218

Website: http://www.solidstandards.eu/

**Tags:**

- biofuels
- quality assurance
- standards

**Media coverage**

- [Duurzaamheidsaspecten onder de loep bij trainingssessie](#) [16]
  Duurzaamgebouwd.nl - 26/05/2013
Related projects

- [ADORE IT] Adolescence for renewable energies in transport
- [BIOGRACE] Align biofuel GHG emission calculations in Europe
- [BIONIC] Biofuels Networks in the Community
- [CARBON LABELLING] Carbon/Efficiency Labelling & Bio-Blending for Optimising Benefits of...
- [COMPRO] COMmon PROcurement of collective and public service transport clean...
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