



RSB
ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOMATERIALS

RSB Membership Guide



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I. Introduction

RSB could not exist without its members. Over 100 diverse organizations have come together to create the RSB. What was a vision to ensure biofuel sustainability has grown into a global sustainability certification for all biomaterials.

Today, members promote RSB's sustainability certification, and approve revisions to the standard and certification system as technology, the environment and society are constantly changing.

This document provides an introduction to the benefits and rights of RSB membership as well as how to apply.



As a member of RSB since the beginning in 2007, I can attest to the value that your RSB membership will bring you personally and to your organization or business. RSB membership is a commitment, not just financially, but emotionally and mentally as well. When you participate in the member teleconference calls or meetings held around the world, you realize you are part of something very important - a movement of diverse people all working towards the same vision that biomaterials are produced sustainably, that smallholders have a chance, and that we leave our world a better place for future generations.

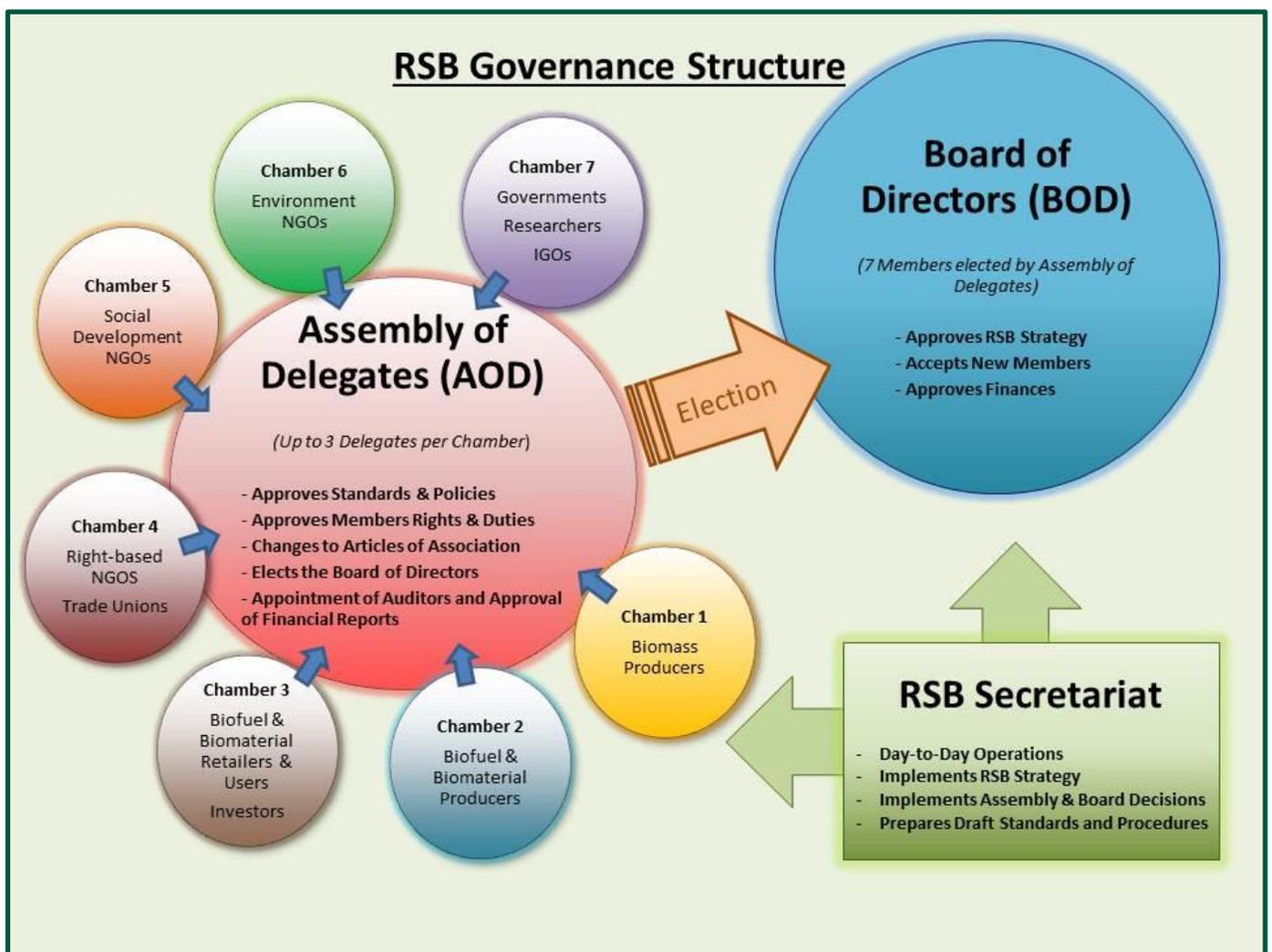
I hope you join me and become a part of our impactful movement!

Barbara Bramble
Board Chair of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials

II. How RSB Works

RSB is owned and run by its members. They come together at least once a year at the General Assembly of Delegates to approve changes to the standards, appoint the Board of Directors, review the accounts and make any adjustments to the rules and legal status of the organisation.

To ensure a balance between business and civil society interests, RSB members are organised into seven chambers which represent different sectors. Chambers elect delegates to represent their views at meetings of the General Assembly of Delegates. Each Chamber also nominates one of its members to the Board of Directors. The Board sets strategy and oversees the management of the Secretariat which runs the day-to-day business of the organisation. A full list of current Delegates and Directors is available on the RSB website in the “About Us” section: www.rsb.org



II. Why Become an RSB Member?

As an RSB member, you are part of a worldwide movement of NGOs, government, businesses, academia and UN organisations that make sustainability a priority. You can help lead the way to ensure the sustainable production of biofuels and biomaterials that promote food security, rural development and reduction in greenhouse gases while protecting human rights and the environment.

By becoming an RSB member, you will:

1. **Demonstrate your commitment to sustainability** – Whether your shareholders are buyers, consumers, or employees, you can use your RSB involvement to strengthen your social responsibility message. You can also demonstrate that you are committed to ensuring that the biomass industry moves on a sustainable path.
2. **Shape the future of sustainable biomaterials** - In the ever-changing world of sustainability issues surrounding biomaterials, let your views be heard, profile your work, and ensure that it is integrated into the world’s foremost sustainability standard. Join cutting-edge discussions and engage in dialogue on the sustainability of biomaterials that contribute to building on the world’s most credible sustainability standard in this field.
3. **Expand your network** - Have the opportunity to meet others committed to sustainability issues and keep in touch with the latest developments in industry, civil society and government. RSB members have found common areas of interest and forged partnerships on policy, smallholders and technical issues such as lifecycle analysis.
4. Become eligible for a **20% discount** on your licensing fees for certification.

“SGB is proud to become a member of the RSB and is committed to ensuring that our bioenergy projects meet the organization’s rigorous standards for environmental and social sustainability through RSB certification.”

– SG Biofuels, RSB Member

In short, your RSB membership is a way to demonstrate your commitment to economically, environmentally and socially sustainable biomaterials and support sustainable supply chains around the world.

Associate Membership Option

Associate Membership is an option for organizations that might have restrictions on becoming full voting members of another entity. Associate Members can participate fully in discussions on the development of the RSB standards, but unlike Full Members, they are not part of the governance of the organization. Therefore they are not eligible for leadership positions and do not vote.

III. How to Join?

To become an RSB member there are a few simple steps.

1. Complete the downloadable [Application Form](#) on our website.
2. Write a **Cover Letter**. You may use the template included in the application form, or create your own as long as it includes:
 - A brief description of your organization's biofuel/biomaterial-related activities.
 - An acknowledgement that your organization accepts the RSB's [Articles of Association](#) and other official RSB documents and decisions (in other words the RSB standard and decisions of the RSB governing bodies).
 - A declaration of any conflict of interests you are aware of, or statement that none exist.
 - And, if you are applying for a fee waiver, your organization's most recent financial statements.

Applications must be reviewed and accepted by the RSB Board of Directors. This process can take up to 3 weeks from date of receipt. We accept applications on a rolling basis, and we look forward to welcoming you!

Questions?

Should you have any questions regarding membership, your application, etc., please feel free to contact the RSB Secretariat at info@rsb.org.





Thank you to all our members, board, chamber chairs and others who **support** us financially as well as with their time and efforts on furthering RSB **projects** around the world.

RSB's success is a tribute to our **diverse** coalition of members that include farmers, companies and businesses, non-governmental **organizations**, experts and academics, governments, inter-governmental agencies and many other groups from around the **world**.

About the RSB

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) is a global movement to ensure the sustainability of biomaterials production through a comprehensive certification system. The RSB brings together a diverse coalition of over 100 organizations around the world including large and small farmers, NGOs, companies, experts, governments, and UN agencies. RSB certification provides user-friendly tools for industry to demonstrate compliance and validates sustainable production including greenhouse gas emission reductions, respect for human rights, protection of biodiversity and water and maintenance of food security. RSB is a full member of the ISEAL Alliance and has been rated the best performing sustainability certification system in recent reports published by WWF, IUCN, and NRDC.

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Contact Us

If you have comments or questions regarding membership or this membership kit, please feel free to contact us. We appreciate your feedback as well as suggestions for improvement.

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