



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

CEN - ENERGY CENTER

ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS

RSB Bulletin November 2010

Dear RSB members:

Welcome once again to the RSB Bulletin. With this version of the RSB Bulletin we would like take the opportunity to report on major developments during the recent in person [Steering Board](#) meeting held from the 3rd through the 5th of November, 2010 and the long awaited adoption of Version 2 of the RSB Standard (available on the RSB website)! This was a very productive and successful meeting! My thanks go to all Chamber members, pilot operators, experts, colleagues here at the Secretariat, and – last but not least – the Steering Board members, who jointly made this great success possible with their commitment, experience and fine spirit of seeking practical solutions. The full report of the meeting will be available shortly.

As always, thanks again for your interest and support of the RSB.

Warm regards,

Alwin

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Version 2

Version 2 of the RSB standards has been approved for certification! The document is available on the [RSB website](#). We want to thank stakeholders and RSB members for all of their valuable comments on version 1.1 to 1.3, which were duly analyzed and taken into

consideration as the Steering Board made its decisions on Version 2. We want to congratulate the Steering Board Members for their constructive spirit in the discussions and willingness to compromise on several important issues, in order to preserve the consensus and move forward. The following decisions were made:

- Regarding Free Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC) the word “*consent*” will remain (Principle 2, principle 9 and principle 12), however the Guidelines and Guidance will be updated to clarify that FPIC forms the basis for consultation and is applied to a realistic range of affected stakeholders.
- The application of earlier cut-off dates from other feedstock-specific standards (e.g. for palm or wood) is brought back into Principle 7 as a binding requirement.
- The original text of Version 1 will remain for the section on microorganisms in Criterion 11c, as the proposed rewording did not achieve consensus.
- Implementation of Criterion 3c:
 - The fossil fuel baseline was approved as a **global average**, which will be recalculated every 5 years.
 - The RSB will work towards the development of a GHG trading system for compliance with criterion 3c. Until the trading system is completed and approved, Criterion 3c will be applied on the basis of a physical blend.
 - Claims will differentiate between final products and non-final products. However, all intermediary products will carry the life-cycle GHG emissions number up to that point in the supply chain.

Introducing RSB Services

We are moving forward in the creation of RSB Services, which will carry out the implementation of the RSB System. We worked with [AccountAbility](#) to design a governance structure for RSB Services, which was presented at the Steering Board meeting. The RSB Services Board will consist of eight voting members and one non-voting member, the RSB Services CEO. The eight voting members will include two members of the RSB Steering Board, the Executive Secretary of the RSB, one representative from EPFL, and the remaining four individuals will be selected for their experience in the industry, in civil society or as an industry auditor. A multi-stakeholder Advisory Group will be formed to assist the Services Board in decision making.

A proposed RSB Services business plan was also discussed, including cost and revenue estimates, and different scenarios to project when RSB Services might become self-sufficient. A licensing fee structure was provisionally approved. This proposal would include a two tiered system, with Tier 1 as the first level, satisfying EU RED requirements, and Tier 2 certification for full compliance with RSB Principles and Criteria (P&Cs), which will be required after 3-4 years. The Board discussion of the two-tiered system concentrated on incentives to promote full compliance with the P&Cs, potential risks to the RSB brand if applicants would have an opportunity to use the Tier 1 certification with an inappropriate claim, and avoiding first level certification for operators who would not be able to qualify later for Tier 2 certification (for example if they had caused involuntary resettlement or loss of conservation values through forest conversion). Chamber calls will be set up to discuss the 2-tiered system from November 25th through December 2nd. After the chambers have

had a chance to discuss the system, the Steering Board will hold a conference call focused on the proposed business plan and two-tiered structure on December 13th.

Certification Roll-Out

The Steering Board also agreed to get the certification system rolled-out between January 31 and February 14, 2011. This process will be supported by several committees formed by SB members.

- A Communication Committee will help to get the word out about the RSB, the adoption of Version 2 of the P&Cs, and the roll-out of the new certification system.
- A Finance Committee will work on fundraising and budgeting.
- An Operation Committee will work on lining up the application and certification process, develop training opportunities and will also work on getting potential participating operators interested in certification.

RSB Vision and Mission Statement

We are pleased to announce that the Steering Board has decided to broaden the coverage of the RSB System beyond liquid biofuels for transport.

The agreed RSB Vision and Mission are:

Vision:

Global sustainable production, conversion, and use of biomass.

Mission:

- *To provide and promote the global standard for socially, environmentally and economically sustainable production and conversion of biomass.*
- *To provide a global platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus building.*
- *To ensure that users and producers have access to credible, practical and affordable certification.*
- *To support continuous improvement through application of the standard*

Interest Groups

Following the agreed process for forming interest groups laid out in the current version of Terms of Reference (*See the June 2010 in-person meeting of the Steering Board for more details*), a proposal was submitted by Khoo Hock Aun (Chamber 1) to form an interest group on "Biofuels Utilization for Sustainable Tourism". Any RSB member interested in joining may contact the Secretariat or Khoo for more details. The purpose of these interest groups is to facilitate cross-sector communication among members in different chambers that share common interests.

Beyond the Steering Board Meeting

In October members of the RSB Secretariat and Steering Board were hosted by POET on a trip to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. During the trip the group had the opportunity to meet with mid-western US farmers and become acquainted with modern corn cultivation and ethanol production techniques. In addition to seeing traditional corn ethanol production, the group had the opportunity to tour a functioning cellulosic ethanol plant, one of the first of its kind in the United States. The group learned about the important synergies between such 1st and 2nd generation biofuels, and how the use of the corn stover improves the overall efficiency of the corn ethanol process. In addition, the group spoke with farmers implementing conservation practices on their lands, and discussed options for how farmers might be best incentivized to protect conservation values on their land, such as wetland areas. Overall, the trip was very helpful and interesting to all and the RSB expresses its appreciation to POET for organizing such an informative excursion to the farming heartland of the USA.

Where can I meet the RSB team?

- November 11-12 - Flight plan towards sustainable aviation biofuels in Mexico: Mexico City, Mexico
- November 16 - ISEAL meeting on Sustainability in Value Chains: São Paulo, Brazil
- November 17 - TSPN Conference 2010 on "Standards for a Sustainable Agriculture and the Mitigation of Climate Change": Berne, Switzerland
- November 17-18 - ISO/PC 248/WG3: Stockholm, Sweden
- November 23 - IUCN Workshop on Vision for Sustainable Bioenergy: Gland, Switzerland
- December 6-9 - Hawaii Geographic Adaptation Needs Assessment Outreach Meetings: Hawaii
- December 8 - Sustainable Aviation Fuels Northwest, Meeting 4: Seattle, WA

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