



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

CEN - ENERGY CENTER

ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS

## RSB Bulletin July 2010

*It is my pleasure to bring you this latest edition of the RSB Bulletin.*

***PLEASE NOTE: Following the coming into effect of the revised RSB Terms of Reference, the nominations process for the new Chamber Co-Chairs/Steering Board members as well as the Alternates is open until July 27, followed by elections from July 29 to August 11. If you or others you know would like to serve as a Chamber Co-Chair or an Alternate, please contact the Secretariat at [matthew.rudolf@epfl.ch](mailto:matthew.rudolf@epfl.ch).***

***Please note that our next RSB Bulletin will be issued in September. But you will not have to live without readings from the RSB Secretariat: a new edition of the RSB Newsletter is planned for the end of August in a changed format.***

*Kind regards,*

*Alwin*

---

### Table of Contents

- [New Chambers and Steering Board](#)
- [RSB Commitment to Strong GHG Reduction for Biofuels Confirmed](#)
- [New Publications Available on the RSB Website](#)
- [Potential Cooperation with SDC, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#)
- [Benchmarking Process](#)
- [Pilot Projects](#)
- [Developing the RSB Business Plan](#)
- [Other Brief Notes](#)

### **New Chambers and Steering Board**

The revised **Terms of Reference for the RSB Chambers and Steering Board** went into effect in early July. There will now be **seven Chambers** in place of the previous eleven. Each Chamber will have two Co-Chairs, who together will participate in the new Steering Board, joined by the Executive Secretary as an ex officio member (for a total of 15 board members). Each Chamber will also have one Alternate, who will serve as a non-voting

observer to the Steering Board.

**Please note** that **all RSB members are invited to submit nominations** for the Chamber Co-Chairs and the Alternates. The nomination process was launched last week and will run through **July 27th**. We require at least three nominations for each Chamber so please contact us if you have suggestions or would like to nominate yourself.

Once nominations are received, the Secretariat will facilitate the two-week election process that will run through August 11th. Election results will be announced on August 16.

### **RSB Commitment to Strong GHG Reduction for Biofuels Confirmed**

All of the Chambers concurred with the consensus reached by the Steering Board that RSB Criterion 3c on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions should require **biofuel blends to achieve at least a 50% reduction in GHG emissions in comparison to the baseline emissions** for conventional fossil fuels. This is a major achievement for the RSB. Several members provided recommendations as to next steps and specific aspects to be scrutinized over the next 18 months.

To compile this valuable feedback and operationalize this important decision, the Secretariat will be drafting a "recommendations document," which will clarify options, as well as pros and cons for issues such as defining biofuel "blends" and the "fossil fuel baseline." The feasibility of options will then be discussed during the next Chamber calls starting in September/October. Our goal will be to put in place a practical system through which operators will be able to measure the GHG reductions associated with their products.

### **New Publications Available on the RSB Website**

Please check out the new publications available on the [RSB website](#), including:

- [The Summary Report of the Steering Board Meeting of June 2010](#) (PDF)
- [The RSB Annual Report 2009](#) (PDF)

**Important Note:** Due to technical maintenance, users may encounter problems when attempting to connect to the RSB website between July 20 and August 15. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thanks for reporting any problems to the Secretariat.

### **Potential Cooperation with SDC, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**

We are in discussions with SDC, the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation** to pursue activities regarding the **social criteria** for sustainable biofuels production and processing. We hope that we will be able to work with SDC, which has a particular interest in practical criteria for operators to address social issues, including food security, land rights, rural and social upliftment, and stakeholder engagement. Linking this effort to other initiatives to address sustainability and governance that are being conducted by FAO, World Bank and GBEP, utilizing the RSB Criteria in field projects is another objective of this potential partnership. We look forward to being able to report more details soon.

## Benchmarking Process

We are working in a strategic alliance with ISEAL, GTZ and the Rainforest Alliance to develop a **common benchmarking framework**. The goal is to have this framework, complemented by a software-based benchmarking tool, able to allow a wide range of standard-setting, public and business organizations to benchmark different sustainability schemes against one another, as well as in reference to evolving regulatory frameworks (e.g EU RED, LCFS, RTFO, etc.). The alliance intends to field test the benchmarking and invites partner organizations, such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, the Round Table on Responsible Soy, the Better Sugarcane Initiative, the Forest Stewardship Council, and others to join this exciting endeavor.

This activity is envisioned as a public-private partnership, and we will be working to engage companies in the process. We will also conduct outreach workshops in each region to build capacity to utilize this framework and tool.

## Pilot Projects

For a pilot project to be conducted on the East coast of **Australia**, we recently held a webinar with the certification body who will test audit the project according to the RSB Standards. Victoria Junquera, the RSB Secretariat's Manager for Science and Technology, will attend a pilot test session as an observer for this project, which involves **wheat**.

We are pursuing the work with our partners on a series of pilot tests in Latin America and other parts of the world. This work would not be possible without the special financial contributions of RSB members such as the Inter-American Development Bank, Shell and the UN Foundation. The RSB Secretariat is grateful for their initiative and leadership in making these pilots possible. We would also like to thank the operators and certification bodies for their work and support in conducting test audits. Their contribution will be the primary source for improvements of the RSB Standard that will lead to Version 2 later this year. We look forward to learning more about the RSB Certification Scheme in the pilots to come.

## Developing the RSB Business Plan

Josiah Seale, the short-term Fellow joining us for the summer from MIT's MBA program, is now about half-way through his fellowship working to develop a business plan for the operationalization of the RSB system. His work will contribute to ensuring that our future communicating of the RSB Standards will be more efficient, effective and elegant. His proposals will form the basis of discussions with the Steering Board and others, coming up soon.

## Other Brief Notes

- RSB was recently selected by the U.K. Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) to conduct a benchmark of our standard against the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) Meta-Standard, the RTFO Standard for Audit Quality and the RED. The results of this benchmark can be accessed either directly on the [RFA website](#) or through

[www.rsb.org](http://www.rsb.org). The RFA has also expressed interest in the work of a joint project between RSB and other organizations about the evaluation of biofuels with low risks of indirect impacts.

- Victoria Junquera of the Secretariat will be attending a meeting in Australia for the "[Sustainable Aviation Fuels Road Map](#)." (For more information, see the [project website](#))
- The RSB recently joined a consortium, which is applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for a project to test the implementation of the RSB environmental standards on-site at a next-generation biofuels facility. This will provide a valuable opportunity to test a key part of our standards with respect to second-generation biofuels.
- The environmental NGO [Climate Solutions](#) is leading the "Sustainable Aviation Fuel Northwest" initiative to promote sustainable aviation biofuel development in the U.S. Pacific Northwest. The project aims to incorporate the RSB Standard as a means to assess sustainability measures. (For a related news article, see "[Alaska Airlines, Boeing, & Airports Partner on Biofuels](#)")
- The Hawaii Biofuels Foundation received a grant from the Packard Foundation to conduct outreach meetings on four of Hawaii's islands for assessing needs for developing capacity in relation to sustainable biofuels and the RSB Standards. This will be followed by Matt Rudolf (RSB Coordinator for Americas).

If you would like to unsubscribe from this list please follow the link below.

[Unsubscribe](#) <<Email Address>> from this list | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)

**Our mailing address is:**  
Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels  
EPFL-Energy Center  
Station 5  
Lausanne, VD 1015

[Add us to your address book](#)

*Copyright (C) 2010 Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels All rights reserved.*

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a light blue rounded rectangular box. The text "MailChimp" is written in a dark blue, cursive, handwritten-style font.