

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



RSB Bulletin October 2011

Dear RSB Members and Friends,

As new applications for certification are being received by the Secretariat, the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels is happy to announce the creation of its sister organization RSB Services, which has recently been incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit in the United States! RSB Services will progressively take over the implementation of the RSB certification scheme.

It is also our pleasure to congratulate SGS on becoming the first accredited RSB Certification Body. We expect the first RSB certificates to be delivered soon, as several companies are now ready to undergo the audit process.

You will find more information about these important news in this issue, as well as updates on ongoing activities within the RSB Secretariat: a new policy underway to certify sustainable biofuels made out of municipal solid waste, used cooking oil and wastewater, and our participation in the next World Water Forum.

As always, thank you for your interest and support of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels.

Very best regards,

Hans B. Püttgen, PhD
Professor & Director, Energy Center, EPFL

Table of Contents

- [Latest News on RSB Certification](#)
- [Special regime for biofuels based on Municipal Solid Waste,](#)
- [Update on SDC projects](#)
- [6th World Water Forum 2012](#)
- [Update on Indirect Impacts](#)
- [Forthcoming events](#)

Latest News on RSB Certification

There have been a number of important developments from the RSB recently.

Our biggest news is that the RSB Services Foundation has been legally incorporated in the United States as a 501(c)3 non-profit. RSB Services Foundation will work closely with the RSB on the implementation of the RSB standard.

The RSB is happy to announce that it has received six applications in the past few weeks. Two organizations, The Manildra Group of Australia and KuoSol from Mexico, have passed the application process, and on-site auditing is currently being planned.

In addition, the Certification Body community has begun to take notice of the increased activity at the RSB and some 11 certification bodies have indicated their interest in offering RSB certification services. The first certification body, SGS has recently been awarded accreditation and a number of others will follow soon.

Special regime for biofuels based on Municipal Solid Waste, Used Cooking Oil and Wastewater

The RSB Secretariat has been working on a policy for the use of end-of-life products, which includes Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Used Cooking Oil (UCO), based on the discussions held during the last Steering Board Meeting. In addition, the Secretariat has developed a similar regime that would be applicable to operators using wastewater to produce biofuels.

Such specific regimes are needed to adapt the RSB certification process to the specificities of these supply chains. For example, sustainability requirements for these feedstocks cannot be as stringent as for crops that are purposefully grown to produce biofuels. Furthermore, the traceability of feedstock cannot be reasonably requested upstream from the collection point, given the number of households that produce wastes.

Following the usual participatory process of the RSB, this policy draft was discussed by the RSB members between October 13 and 24. RSB members support the overall approach proposed by the Secretariat. A few issues will be further discussed by the Steering Board before final approval in November.

Update on SDC projects

The RSB has received support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to improve the standards on social issues, e.g. land and water rights, rural and social development, and local food security. For this project the RSB, with the support of a team of experts, is revising the social impact guidelines and conducting field evaluations. Pilots were already carried out in Mali, Peru and Mozambique.

The Secretariat is currently planning and preparing for the remaining three field evaluations. Because of the flooding in Thailand, the arranged pilot for mid-October there will now take place in December. A field evaluation will take place in Brazil in November and in January the RSB is visiting the Philippines for the final one. During these pilots the social issues team is testing new definitions (region of food insecurity and poverty, legitimate dispute) and obtaining feedback on the revised guidelines. Furthermore, another expert meeting is scheduled for February 2012 to discuss the outcomes of the SDC project.

6th World Water Forum 2012

The [6th World Water Forum](#), which will take place from March 12-17, 2012 in Marseille

resources. The five World Water Forums organized since 1997 have placed water on the international political agenda and have contributed to a greater global awareness of water issues.

The RSB is pleased to serve as the coordinator of "Target and Solutions Group 7" (TSG 7) on "Sustainable Biofuels Production". The 6th World Water Forum will offer a unique opportunity to inform biofuel actors and decision-makers about the current state of knowledge on water-related issues, good practices and future improvements in determining biofuel water footprints. Over the next months, the TSG will:

- Establish a comprehensive framework, describing "Solutions" – existing or innovative – to be implemented by biofuel operators and decision-makers to achieve better water management in biofuel production chains.
- Link-up with other TSGs working on relevant issues (e.g. energy, agriculture, food security) to enhance synergies.
- Present and promote the conceptual framework during the 6th World Water Forum, to be held in Marseille (France) in March 2012.
- Ensure that several private/public actors adhere to the conceptual framework and commit to implement it by 2015.

Participation of RSB Members is welcome, in particular for operators working in feedstock processing. If you are interested or want to receive more information, please send an e-mail to sebastien.haye@epfl.ch.

Update on Indirect Impacts

The Secretariat is collaborating with WWF International, Ecofys and other project partners on the development of a [Certification module for Low-Indirect Impacts Biofuels \(CIIB\)](#). The methodology lists certain categories of biofuels & biofuel feedstocks with a certifiably low risk of causing indirect impacts. The CIIB methodology will inform the RSB Secretariat's proposal to the Steering Board regarding how to address indirect impacts in the RSB Standard. The RSB Indirect Impacts Expert Group (IIEG) had a conference call on September 7 to discuss the CIIB methodology and the RSB has received additional written feedback.

The RSB Secretariat is drafting a proposal on how to address indirect impacts in the Standard. This proposal is informed by the results from the CIIB, which comes to an end in the first quarter of 2012. The Secretariat will present suggested options to address indirect impacts to the RSB membership and Steering Board in the first half of 2012. Multi-stakeholder chamber and Steering Board discussions will follow to discuss the subject of how to integrate a methodology addressing indirect impacts into the RSB Standard. The activities of the RSB Secretariat in the area of indirect impacts are highlighted in the new Summary Paper: Indirect Impacts and the RSB which can be found on the IIEG website:

<http://rsb.epfl.ch/lang/en/iieg>.

Forthcoming events

The RSB staff will be attending the following conferences:

- Nov. 14-16, 2011: **3^{ème} Conférence internationale sur les biocarburants en Afrique**, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (more information: www.biofuel-africa.org)
- Nov. 16-17, 2011: **Bioenergy International Expo and Conference**, Antwerp, Belgium. The RSB is a partner of the conference and will present the RSB certification system. RSB Members can receive a 20% discount through the code "RSB11" (more information: www.biofuelsinternationalexpo.com)

Subscribe to List

View Past Issues

RSS

translate

g

+1

f

Like

Comm

"Environmental Sustainability of Biomass" and IEA Bioenergy Task 43 workshop on Bioenergy and Water), Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia (more information: www.bioenergyaustralia.org)

- Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2011: **CAAFI General Meeting**, Washington DC, USA (more information: www.caafiexpo.com)

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 1015

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2011 Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels All rights reserved.

MailChimp