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RSB Bulletin (September 2012)

Dear RSB Members,

I am pleased to inform you that on September 13, Maple Energy PLC received RSB certification after successfully completing an official audit process conducted by SGS. This is great news, as it demonstrates the growing interest from the industry for RSB certification, which guarantees the highest level of environmental and social sustainability. This is why Maple Energy opted for RSB certification, as opposed to other alternatives currently available on the market. A genuine commitment to sustainability requires efforts, but as well as being rewarded with credible certification, the benefits of harmonious relationships with local populations and Mother Nature are priceless!

As announced earlier, the administrative transition of the RSB is moving ahead with discussions on the statutes and articles of incorporation of the new entity, to become operational on January 1, 2013.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat keeps working on the development of its policy for by-products and residues, benchmarking exercises, the launching of the new phase of the SDC project and several other activities, which we hope to complete before the end of the year. Exciting times ahead!

Finally, in the last issue of our bulletin, we invited you to publicly show your support to the RSB by letting us use your logo or quotes. Our warmest thanks to all those who responded positively. Please contact the Secretariat if you want your logo and/or a quote to be displayed on our landing page.

As always, many thanks for your valuable support to the RSB!

Best regards,
Sébastien Haye, Executive Secretary (Acting)

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New RSB Certification: Maple Energy PLC



The RSB is happy to announce that Maple Energy PLC successfully completed the RSB certification process, as of September 13, 2012. The audit was conducted by SGS (public report). Maple Energy produces bioethanol out of sugarcane in Peru. Maple was originally a pilot project for the RSB following the release of Version 2.0 of the RSB Standard. Since the project was developed in line with the RSB Principles & Criteria and other standards, it did not encounter major difficulties in the demonstration of compliance.

By-Products and Residues Policy – Upcoming Consultation

Following the in-person Steering Board meeting in June, the RSB Secretariat is in the process of revising the draft policy on biofuels based on by-products and residues from agriculture, forestry or industrial processes. In order to gather more expertise and knowledge, we have now set up a small working group, which will review the draft prepared by the Secretariat before it is sent to the RSB chambers. All RSB Members will be consulted in November, with the final approval by the Steering Board foreseen in December.

Screening Tool – Revision Process

The RSB Screening Tool, an essential step in the impact assessment process required in Principle 2, is currently under revision, and it will involve the consultation of RSB Members. This revision aims to make the screening clearer, cost-effective and robust, especially with regards to conservation aspects (Principle 7). As part of this process, the RSB Secretariat is in the process of setting up a Working Group, which will hold two conference calls (in October and November) on the subject. Please contact the Secretariat if you are interested in participating. The revised screening will be submitted to the Chambers for consultation. As usual, the final approval lies with the Steering Board.

Benchmarking

After completing the benchmark of the RSB and SAN standards, which has led to the recognition by the RSB of the equivalence of SAN certificates in June 2012, the RSB is now looking at other opportunities to replicate this process. The Secretariat is currently leading a number of benchmarking exercises in coordination with RSB Services. These exercises aim to facilitate the RSB certification process for operators certified under other systems and are expected to be completed by the end of December 2012.

SDC – Launching of Phase II

Building upon the first phase of work on the social principles of the RSB funded by Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC), EPFL has renewed its partnership with SDC for the period September 2012 – February 2014. During this phase, EPFL will lead the development of a biofuel roadmap process in three developing countries and develop a smallholder friendly adaptation of the RSB Standard. The second component of the project will be developed in cooperation with the soon to be established independent RSB and RSB Services.

RSB Services

We are excited to announce that Anne Uyeda has joined RSB Services as Marketing & Compliance Management Associate. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, and a Biology minor. Prior to her promotion as a full-time associate, Anne worked as an Intern at RSB Services. Above all, Anne hopes to see sustainable business practice become a global priority, and it is a dream come true for her to work at an organization that truly cares about helping biofuel companies achieve sustainability. We welcome Anne to the RSB Family!

In addition, we are happy to announce that more applications were received in the past weeks. Two organizations, EcoEnergie (Switzerland) and Addax Bioenergy (Sierra Leone), have passed the due diligence process, and on-site auditing is currently being planned.

LIIB Methodology Published

EPFL is happy to announce the publication of the Low Indirect Impacts Biofuels (LIIB) methodology, Version 0 in September 2012. The LIIB methodology describes certain categories of biofuel and bioenergy feedstocks that can be said with a high degree of certainty to have a low risk of causing displacement of food and other provisioning services. These are biofuels and bioenergy production from (1) Increased yields, (2) Integration of sugarcane and cattle, (3) End-of-life products (waste), and (4) Unused land.

The LIIB methodology was developed by WWF International, the consulting firm Ecofys, EPFL-Energy Center and other project partners, which included certification body DNV. The project, funded by the Dutch development and implementation agency NL Agency, ran from January 2011 to the end of March of 2012 and included a pilot test for each of the “low risk” categories listed.

The LIIB methodology is publicly available (for instance at the [RSB Indirect Impacts Expert Group](#) website at this [link](#)) and can be incorporated in voluntary certification schemes or even in regulation. It has been designed with certification and auditing in mind. WWF, Ecofys and EPFL will organize a public outreach on the LIIB in November in Brussels.

RSB Featured in Several Media Publications

In the last weeks, the RSB was mentioned and featured in several publications, e.g.:

- [SWISS Magazine](#) (Sep. 2012): Interview with Sébastien Haye – “Sustainable biokerosene”
- [The Guardian](#) (Sep. 2012): RSB mentioned in article “The global land grab is the next human rights challenge for business”
- [ISEAL Alliance Blog](#) (Aug. 2012): Interview with Sébastien Haye – “What Makes a Standard Credible?”

- [IFC's Handshake](#) (Jul. 2012): RSB featured in "Branson on Biofuel" Interview
- RSB mentioned in [E2 Advanced Biofuel Market Report 2012](#) (p. 10)

Forthcoming events

The RSB staff will be attending the following conference:

- [ISEAL Credibility Principles Public Consultation](#): Sep. 3-Dec. 7, 2012 (online, workshops etc.)
- [Aviation Biofuels Development Conference](#): Washington D.C. (USA), Oct. 2-3, 2012
- [Biofuels Certification: Opportunities for procurement and trading](#) (A Kingsman Seminar): October 4, 2012 in Geneva (Switzerland)



- [ISEAL Draft Credibility Principles Workshop](#): Washington D.C. (USA), Oct. 9, 2012
- [Argus European Biofuels and Feedstocks Trading](#): London (UK), Oct. 23-24, 2012
- [Biofuels International 2012 Conference](#): Antwerp (Belgium), Nov. 21-22, 2012
- Atelier sur les politiques publiques en faveur des biocarburants à base de Jatropha: Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Nov. 26-29, 2012

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