



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

CEN - ENERGY CENTER

ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS

## RSB Bulletin October 2010

*Dear RSB members:*

*Welcome once again to the RSB Bulletin. Here, we report the latest on our work, including the valuable consultation process on Version 1.1 of the RSB Standard, just concluded. Thanks to the many of you who submitted helpful comments. Finally, we are proud to announce that the brand new RSB website is now online! Check out <http://rsb.epfl.ch> for more...*

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

*Warm regards,*

*Alwin*

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### Consultations on Version 1.1

Since August 2010, the RSB is undertaking a revision of the Principles & Criteria and associated Guidance. Based on the feedback from pilot testing [Version One](#), a revised Version 1.1 was drafted and submitted to a [one-month public consultation](#). RSB Chambers were also invited to submit their comments during the same period, which ended on October 7. We were pleased to receive many comments, numbering about 200 in all, from almost 40 institutions. The comments covered a wide range of issues, from broad philosophical questions to the technical aspects of the requirements included in the P&Cs, as well as some specifics on improved language of the Standard. The comments we have

received are now available on the [RSB website](#) and on the [BioenergyWiki](#).

Following this consultation, a new version of the Standard, Version 1.2, consisted of Version 1.1 with some of the suggested changes. This new draft was discussed by the Steering Board (SB) on October 13 (teleconference). Many of the proposed edits were approved and some new changes were suggested, therefore creating a Version 1.3, which has just been circulated to RSB Chambers. Chamber will discuss this new draft over a new round of teleconference starting on October 21. Based on this final round of Chambers deliberations, the Steering Board will seek to finalize a revised version (at the November SB meeting), which will then be known as Version 2.0. Version 2.0 is expected to become the basis for the certification process, to start in 2011.

Since its early days, open consultation has always represented a pillar of the RSB process, which aims at compliance with the Code of Conduct for Standard Setting developed by the [ISEAL Alliance](#) (the RSB is an associate member of ISEAL). It remains extremely important for the RSB to keep listening to the opinions of all actors, both outside and within the RSB membership, and benefit from the valuable expertise and know-how stakeholders around the world kindly share with us. Now that the draft RSB Standard has gained familiarity among interested stakeholders and has been used to guide pilot projects, this consultation phase has helped further improve and clarify the phrasing of the Standard, with a view to its practical implementation. We are grateful to all who offered their input and advice.

### **Steering Board Meeting**

The next [Steering Board](#) meeting will be held from the 3rd to the 5th of November 2010. This meeting mainly aims to agree on Version 2.0 of the RSB Standard. Other issues to be discussed include the formation of RSB Services; pending GHG issues, such as the fossil fuel baseline, the definition of blend or claims (see more on this below); and a revised Chamber structure, as recently proposed by Chamber 2.

At this meeting, the results of the forthcoming Chamber teleconferences will be presented, along with recommendations for how to proceed. We look forward to reporting the results to you soon.

### **Benchmarking activity proposal**

Our discussions with GTZ regarding cooperation on a benchmarking project are progressing well. We submitted an initial proposal to GTZ on September 30, and we expect to hear the results back in mid-October. We already started working on a detailed proposal, as well as applying to other funders to cover other additional costs related to this activity.

### **GHG Recommendations for the Steering Board**

After deciding on criterion 3c, which establishes a greenhouse gas (GHG) threshold (50% reduction for biofuel blends compared to fossil fuel), several key aspects remain to be specified, such as how to calculate the fossil fuel baseline, how to define a biofuel blend and what claims are allowed re GHG performance at various steps of the chain of custody. A document, "Recommendations on Path Forward on Implementation of Principle 3," was

recently presented to the Steering Board, providing recommendations from the Secretariat for how to address these issues over the short and mid-term.

The main recommendations are to require participating operators to comply with Criterion 3a and 3b where applicable (e.g., EU RED, US RFS, CA LCFS) from the beginning of the certification process in 2011. However, compliance with Criterion 3c as part of the RSB certification process would not be required until after an evaluation period agreed by the Steering Board in June and ending in December 2011, because of the fact the calculation of the fossil fuel baselines will require time to complete.

Other key recommendations include having a global fossil fuel baseline for each different type of fuel (one for gasoline, one for diesel and one for jet fuel) rather than regional, and based on the average GHG performance of a mix of fossil fuels rather than the GHG performance of the marginal fuel component in the mix. The main reason is that we do not have sufficient data to define what the GHG performance of marginal fuels is. This baseline should also be recalculated periodically (each 6 years). In addition, a recommendation is made that the RSB should adopt a trading system for RSB blends, which would allow operators to exchange GHG credits to ensure that they all meet the threshold overall. The basis for attributing tradable certificates would be the GHG value of a physical blend.

RSB Chambers will have the opportunity to discuss this recommendation in their next round of Chamber telephone conferences, which will take place between October 21 and 25. The Steering Board will further debate this issue based on the feedback from our Chambers.

### **Addressing "Wastes" in the RSB standard**

A pending question for the RSB is the issue of what to do with "waste" related to biofuel production – both the "waste" from the production of crops or resulting from other processes which could be used for biofuel production (such as corn stover, used cooking oil, etc.) as well as the "waste" generated as byproducts of producing biofuels. Of particular interest is the issue of animal incl. fish waste, and the question of how far up the production chain should sustainability considerations go; for example, if waste products from cattle are to be used to produce biofuel, must the raising of the cattle themselves be sustainable, with sustainably produced feed (e.g., with sustainably produced soya or corn), ethical treatment of animals, etc.? The Secretariat held preliminary discussions on this topic and will shortly draft a paper that examines these issues and provides options for how to deal with wastes in the future.

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