



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

CEN - ENERGY CENTER

ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS

## RSB Bulletin September 2010

*Dear RSB members:*

*Welcome to our latest RSB Bulletin; we hope it will bring you up to date on the work the RSB Secretariat has been doing over the past few months.*

*Please note that the Public Consultation on Version 1.1 of the RSB Standards and Criteria is now ongoing, through 7 October; we look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions to help us create an improved and updated version. As always, we appreciate your interest and support for the RSB.*

*Warm regards,  
Alwin*

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### Chamber and Public Consultations on Version 1.1

We are conducting a special consultation aimed at integrating lessons learnt from pilot projects in the RSB Principles & Criteria. This draft was prepared by the Secretariat with the valuable input and advice of a Steering Board sub-committee. The main changes focus on removing duplications and contradictions, and on improving the clarity of the text.

The RSB Secretariat encourages all RSB Chambers and interested stakeholders to review and comment on Version 1.1 of the RSB Standard, which is now available on the [RSB website](#) and the [BioenergyWiki](#). Please read the consultation instructions provided there carefully! The consultation will close at midnight Swiss time on 7 October 2010.

## **Recent Steering Board Call**

The latest Steering Board teleconference call took place on 16 September 2010. At this meeting the new RSB Board elected its Chair and Vice-Chairs: Congratulations to Barbara Bramble for her reelection as RSB Chair and to Damiana Serafini and Khoo Hock Aun for their election as RSB Vice-Chairs. The Steering Board discussed Criterion 3c of the RSB P&C's. It focused on options for the fossil fuel baseline (GHG emissions), the definition of a biofuel blend (Principle 3) and claims operators should be allowed to make based on the GHG performance.

## **RSB Services**

Now that the RSB has developed a robust and credible standard for sustainable biofuel production, there is a need to create a sister organization in charge of implementing the standard. The working name for this new body is "RSB Services," and its existence is justified by the need to keep the development of the RSB Standard separate from implementation activities; this is to avoid conflicts of interests, as has been recommended by several organizations, including ISEAL (RSB is an associate member of ISEAL; for more information visit [www.isealalliance.org](http://www.isealalliance.org)). "RSB Services" will have its own staff and governance body, while the existing structure of the RSB will remain, to be known as "RSB Standards." Despite this relative independence in function, several options exist to provide a strong connection between the two sister organizations, for example through the participation of "RSB Standards" Steering Board members in the governing body of RSB Services. It is critical that the two organizations collaborate to meet the same objective: developing and implementing a robust standard to ensure biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability.

Among its activities, "RSB Services" would:

- Manage the implementation of the RSB Standards
- Manage the RSB brand and claims
- Work with an Accreditation Body
- Conduct training of Auditing and Certification Bodies
- Conduct communication and marketing activities to promote the RSB Standard

In August 2010, the RSB hired AccountAbility ([www.accountability.org](http://www.accountability.org)) to help further develop the governance structure for "RSB Services". This consultancy firm is a leading international organization providing innovative solutions to the most critical challenges in corporate responsibility and sustainable development. Since 1995 it has helped corporations, non-profits and governments embed ethical, environmental, social, and governance accountability into their processes.

AccountAbility presented some options for the governance of the "RSB Services" to the Steering Board at the last RSB leadership meeting. It is expected that the Board will decide on the overall structure of "RSB Services" by November this year.

## **Benchmarking**

We are continuing to make progress on the benchmarking project that will allow for comparisons between various certification systems and standards applicable to biofuel. This is a long-term project in cooperation with the German development cooperation agency, GTZ, the Rainforest Alliance/SAN, the RTRS and ISEAL. Please look for continued updates as the project continues to develop.

## **Pilot Projects**

The pilot projects thus far have provided valuable feedback, which has been incorporated into Version 1.1 of the Standard. We would like to express our appreciation to the funders of the RSB pilot projects, in particular the Inter-American Development Bank and Shell, all of the operators that have participated in pilot projects, and to the auditors of certification organizations such as DQS, DNV, SGS and GHD. All of them contributed invaluable expertise and, indeed, sometimes substantial in-kind contributions. This has been a very important step in the development of the RSB Standard.

Four pilot projects are still ongoing in Latin America, and we are looking forward to the additional feedback, which will be critical for providing additional understanding as to how the Standard will work when applied to on-the-ground operations. The development of the Standard will continue to be an iterative process, with subsequent versions being updated based on the feedback received from the ongoing pilot projects.

## **Certification Management System**

We are currently working to develop a new computerized Certification Management System, which will facilitate the management of the RSB certification scheme. This new system will link to the RSB Tool for GHG calculation and risk assessment. Currently we are determining the required system elements and specifications, and the next step will be a Request for Proposals (RFP) process soliciting proposals for the development of the software and related systems.

## **Your Input Wanted!**

Once again, we encourage you to provide your comments on Version 1.1 of the RSB Principles & Criteria. Now is your chance to provide written and substantiated feedback and proposals for improvement. Please visit the [RSB website](#) and the [BioenergyWiki](#) and make your comments before midnight Swiss time on 7 October 2010. Thank you in advance.

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