

THE ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOMATERIALS (RSB)

RSB Membership: A guide for NGO participation

This document is a supplement to the [RSB Membership Guide](#) and provides more information about why we value NGO engagement, and the benefits and opportunities available to NGOs who participate in RSB's stakeholder community.

Information on the application process, governance structures and any applicable membership dues is available within the [RSB Membership Guide](#).

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Background

RSB is a global membership organisation that drives the just and sustainable transition to a bio-based and circular economy.

Together with our members we have developed a framework for supporting the development of a bioeconomy that ensures social and environmental interests are prioritised. This framework is recognised globally for the credibility and robustness of its approach to supporting the transformation urgently needed for decarbonisation while supporting and enhancing ecosystems and livelihoods.

Input from our multi-stakeholder membership community is key to ensuring that the highest and most robust approach to social and environmental justice remains at the forefront of this transition to a net positive world.

Within this structure, we rely on NGOs to help us understand the challenges and risks and to set the agenda to make sure our partnerships, innovative solutions, and standards are meeting expectations.

In turn, we support our member NGOs by via access to support through multi-stakeholder engagement fund; providing a trusted sustainability framework to refer to; project partnerships and fundraising opportunities; access to a membership network covering leading industry, civil society and other partners; access to learning opportunities; and the opportunity to shape the development of the bio-based and circular economy via your participation in ongoing revisions to RSB's leading sustainability framework.

Our NGO members benefit from our extensive network, access to expertise on complex topics, and have the opportunity to play a key role in setting the agenda and subject-specific requirements on defining and driving the sustainable circular and bioeconomy.



Image 1: RSB Members at the Innovations Meeting in Boston, 2022

1. Membership benefits

How our NGO members benefit from RSB membership

NGO members play an essential role in ensuring credibility of the standard by helping us to continuously develop and improve our standards.

In return, members enjoy the following benefits of participating in the roundtable:

- Play a leading role in shaping our agenda and standard by bringing vital voices on environmental and social justice to the discussion
- Confidence and expertise in RSB's sustainability framework to support your work in driving the development of the circular bioeconomy
- Participate in RSB's global collaborative network of industry, civil society and other stakeholders with a shared ambitious vision of a sustainable circular bioeconomy - engaging directly with industry leaders and policy-makers on the topics that most impact communities and the environment
- Participate in discussion and development on innovative topics that directly impact people and the planet – including on sustainable biomass feedstock, aviation and marine sector decarbonisation and emerging and hot button issues like Power-to-X technology and Book & Claim
- Access to an ongoing and constantly evolving range of member-only tools and initiatives, including platforms and programs, learning opportunities, and events
- Tap in to scientific and research expertise and grow your connections across our collaborative network in areas related to the bio-based and circular economy transition

2. Our activities

We form Impact Alliances across 3 areas

Certification

Certification to the RSB Standard covers feedstock production, entire supply chains, and novel technologies, including fuel, biomass and material products from bio-based and recycled carbon, including fossil waste.

Implementation

Technical and strategic advice, hands-on implementation, staff training and research services at a regional and global level. We work on projects with individual partners.

We also run large landscape-level projects to develop bioeconomy roadmaps with multiple partners.

Convening

Convening stakeholder groups across private sector, industry, governments, NGOs & academia through events, working groups and platforms to define sustainability standards and best practices, generate energy for action, and drive consensus.

3. Membership platforms

Shaping the future through collaboration and knowledge exchange

Our approach

RSB's multi-stakeholder membership community is here to support organisations — including industry, civil society, academia and government — to create a just and sustainable transition towards a net-zero carbon, circular and bio-based economy by:

1. Developing new knowledge and solutions as we work together to combat the climate crisis
2. Sharing wisdom in a pre-competitive space to support the implementation of best sustainability practice
3. Shaping important revisions to the RSB sustainability framework and standards

Our current platforms

Standards Working Group

- Experts working together to ensure the continuous and robust development of RSB's Standards.

Sustainable Biomass Policy Platform

- Explore policy and practical realities across sectors to ensure sustainable biomass feedstocks

Power-to-X Platform

- Assessing, understanding and mitigating potential sustainability risks in Power-to-X technologies – and disseminating learnings to relevant regulators, policy-makers and others to enhance positive outcomes of this developing technology.

SAF Policy Platform

- Working to embed social and environmental sustainability at the core of SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) policies

Sustainable Airports Platform

- Developing and exchanging knowledge on the role of airports in the growing SAF economy

Sustainable Marine Fuels Platform

- Engaging with industry and regulators to advance and push for the most robust sustainability approach for the sector, with cross-sector consistency of requirements to support scale

Book & Claim Group

- Ensuring that a robust and credible framework is in place to guide the development of this model for scaling sustainable fuel supply

4. RSB procedures and standards

A robust and trusted framework of standards and procedures to ensure sustainable production

Things you should know about the RSB Sustainability Framework:

- It ensures food security, rural development and protection of ecosystems.
- It has been developed by thought leaders from across sectors, regions, supply chains, government and NGOs via a robust multi-stakeholder process which gives equal voice to civil society and industry – elevating NGO perspectives.
- Through our support for innovation and development of partnerships, the Standard is actively driving the bioeconomy.
- It is committed to mitigating social and environmental risks and finding solutions.
- It is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is feedstock agnostic – and applicable to all types of feedstocks if they can achieve the extremely high levels of sustainability required by RSB.



Image 2: Interactive stakeholder engagement with the RSB community, 2019

5. Opportunities

Assisting NGOs with financing and resourcing

We know that while there are many benefits to RSB membership, it's not always easy for NGOs to find the resources to participating in our community.

Ensuring that RSB membership dues support the ongoing engagement of stakeholders in the development of the bio-based and circular economy is critical for RSB's mission.

Given how important it is for us to have NGOs at the table, we have various mechanisms to help overcome this challenge, and we're actively investigating new ways to resolve this challenge and make it easier for NGOs to be involved.

Currently, our NGO members can:

- Apply for funding from our **Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Fund** for access to global events and discussions for our civil society members.
- Offset membership dues via in-kind contributions of your expertise to RSB's multi-stakeholder platform or taking up a position within the RSB governance structure.
- Work with RSB to fundraise together.

- Social NGOs have zero membership fees.

6. Other ways to get involved

We want to work with you. While RSB membership provides the fullest access to participate in our network, we also provide opportunities to organisations that are unable to commit to membership at present due to statutory and constraints.

Webinars and events

Engage in online and in-person discussions and presentations on a range of innovative topics.

Knowledge Partnerships

Work with RSB to share your research and expertise on specific topics – via our working groups and standard development processes – with our wider collaborative network.

RSB Annual Conference

RSB's Annual Conference is open to all and we are able to offer a number of free tickets to relevant NGOs to participate.

Platforms and initiatives (member and invitation only)

Collaborate with RSB members to develop new knowledge and guidelines that will advance the bio-based and circular economy.

About RSB

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) is a global membership organisation that drives the sustainable transition to a circular bioeconomy. RSB's sustainability framework has been developed by its multi-stakeholder membership, and is a uniquely robust and credible foundation for supporting innovative solutions to the climate crisis. RSB uses this foundation to develop projects, new knowledge and solutions that equip key decision-makers to deliver positive impacts for people and the planet.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the transition to a circular bioeconomy is a truly sustainable one. Get in touch today!

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