

BioGrace Newsletter #9 – May 2014

The project BioGrace aims at harmonising bioenergy greenhouse gas calculations (GHG) in Europe and is supported by Intelligent Energy Europe. BioGrace (I) (Contract No: IEE/09/736/SI2.558249) ran from 2010 to 2012 and dealt with liquid biofuels, BioGrace-II runs from 2012 to 2015 and deals with electricity, heating and cooling from biomass (Contract number: IEE/11/733/SI2.616371).

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❖ Project Review

The BioGrace-II project started two years ago in April 2012 with the aim to harmonise GHG calculations for electricity, heating and cooling from biomass on the European market. Since then the consortium has been developing the BioGrace-II GHG calculation tool featuring the Excel tool, detailed calculation rules, a user manual, and a methodological background document.

Between February and June 2013 a first draft of the Excel tool was presented to small groups of stakeholders in five feedback sessions in four different countries in order to check the user-friendliness of the tool. Questions and comments were collected and replied to in a report that was sent to all participants and also put online on the project website. Suggestions for a better usability of the tool were implemented.

Four months after the feedback sessions, the BioGrace consortium organised a Public Workshop in Brussels on 30 October to reach all companies throughout Europe. The target group of the workshop was broader than in the feedback sessions and included companies that would like to comply with sustainability criteria for solid biomass but also verifiers, consultants, researchers and policy makers. 56 participants showed up to learn about the BioGrace-II tool, and to hear Giulio Volpi from DG ENER explain the latest developments and proposals by the European Commission (EC). In addition Caroline Season from the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) in UK gave an overview of the UK biomass sustainability criteria and the

solid biomass and biogas calculator that was developed by E4Tech and that is used in the UK to show compliance with the UK sustainability criteria for solid biomass and for biogas.

In March this year BioGrace-II decided to especially invite European policy makers to another workshop in Brussels. 18 policy makers from 12 different Member States came to exchange their national positions and to discuss to what extent harmonisation of GHG calculation in the field of solid and gaseous biomass would be sensible. The most active Member States in terms of sustainability criteria for solid biomass are Belgium, Hungary, Italy, United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Yet, the decision taking of many Member States as well as the finalization of the BioGrace-II tool depend on the update of the 2010 EC report on the sustainability requirements for the use of solid and gaseous biomass sources in electricity, heating and cooling (COM(2010)11). The date of the publication of that new report is unclear since the Joint Research Centre and the DG ENER are still working on it.

Besides that four trainings on the BioGrace calculation tool on liquid biofuel were offered to trainers of verifiers in Germany, France, and the Netherlands. The tool was the outcome of the first BioGrace project and was approved as a voluntary scheme by the European Commission.

Workshop presentations and reports are available online at

<http://biograce.net/app/webroot/biograce2/>.

❖ Invitation to the 2nd BioGrace-II Public Workshop in Vienna

The workshop will take place on June 10 2014 in Vienna and will deal with three main issues:

1. The latest developments of the EU sustainability policy on bioenergy will be presented and discussed
2. Users will share their experiences with applying the BioGrace calculation tool on liquid biofuels
3. Participants will learn in interactive sessions how to use the tools and have the opportunity to ask specific questions.

All stakeholders in the field of bioenergy (economic operators, verifiers, holders of sustainability schemes, greenhouse gas experts, etc.) are welcome to attend. Participation is for free.

The agenda is available and registration possible at

<http://www.biograce.net/app/webroot/biograce2/content/home/workshops/publicworkshopregistrationform/>

www.biograce.net



❖ Invitation to the Conference on the impacts and achievements of IEE Bioenergy projects in Brussels

On 22 May 2014 Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) will organise a conference on the Impacts and achievements of Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Bioenergy projects at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Brussels.

Bioenergy will play a crucial role in achieving the renewable energy targets by 2020. It is expected to account for more than 50% of the renewable energy consumption in Europe. However, the production and consumption of sustainable bioenergy in any of its forms (solid, gaseous and liquid), is still facing non-technological barriers that are impeding its large scale market uptake in most EU Member States.

The bioenergy projects which have been co-financed by the Intelligent Energy – Europe II (IEE) programme (2007-2013) aimed at supporting initiatives addressing such non-technological barriers by triggering and accompanying the concrete implementation of local supply chains of the most sustainable solid biomass, biogas & bio-methane and liquid biofuels resources. They have also supported the implementation of strategic actions aiming at contributing to the achievement of the 2020 targets and setting strategies in the bioenergy field beyond 2020.

The conference will present the impacts achieved by the projects funded under the IEE programme as well as the final results of the 8 solid biomass and biogas projects coming to an end in 2014.

Representatives from DG ENER and DG AGRI will provide an update on the latest developments in the energy & agricultural EU policies in relation to bioenergy.

Agenda:

http://www.managenergy.net/lib/documents/1032/original_Agenda_IEE_Bioenergy_conference.pdf?1396424894

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