

BioGrace Newsletter #4 – August 2011

The EU funded project BioGrace (Contract No: IEE/09/736/SI2.558249) aims to harmonise calculations of biofuel greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and thus supports the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED, 2009/28/EC) and Fuel Quality Directive (2009/30/EC) into national laws.

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❖ EC approves seven voluntary certification schemes

On July 19th, 2011 the European Commission recognized seven voluntary certification schemes. About ten other schemes are still in the process of examination; amongst them the BioGrace GHG calculation tool. The decision on the BioGrace scheme is expected for end 2011.

Economic operators are free to choose the national scheme or a voluntary scheme in order to prove compliance with the RED sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids. Voluntary schemes approved by the EC apply through the entire European Union.

The seven approved schemes are:

- ❖ **ISCC** (German government financed scheme covering all types of biofuels)
- ❖ **Bonsucro EU** (Roundtable initiative for sugarcane based biofuels, focus on Brazil)
- ❖ **RTRS EU RED** (Roundtable initiative for soy based biofuels, focus on Argentina and Brazil)
- ❖ **RSB EU RED** (Roundtable initiative covering all types of biofuels)
- ❖ **2BSvs** (French industry scheme covering all types of biofuels)
- ❖ **RSBA** (Industry scheme for Abengoa covering their supply chain)
- ❖ **Greenergy** (Industry scheme for Greenergy covering sugar cane ethanol from Brazil)

Four of these seven schemes go beyond the RED criteria on the protection of land with high biodiversity value, land with high carbon stock and peatlands, and on GHG emission savings, for they also prescribe standards on air, soil, water, and social rights. **Bonsucro**, **RTRS**, and **RSB** had been developed as worldwide certification standards before the RED was legislated. These three schemes have been adjusted to the EU regulation by offering a special supplement for those producers and traders of biofuels who commercialise on the European single market. The **Greenergy** label on the other hand had been set up to meet the stricter sustainability criteria for biofuels in the United Kingdom. **Greenergy**, again, and **RSBA** (Abengoa) are company-run schemes primarily developed for the companies' own biofuel chains.

The intention of the submitted BioGrace voluntary scheme is to solely cover the GHG criteria offering a comprehensive, user-friendly GHG calculator, as well as detailed GHG calculation rules. The BioGrace scheme is meant to be used as an “add-on” to other schemes, either national or voluntary. To this end, **RTRS** and **2BSvs** allow for using such “external” GHG calculators; and **ISCC** already refers to the BioGrace standard values for emission factors wherever possible. **RSB**, though, prescribes to use factors drawn from the ecoinvent-database, whereas **RSBA**'s GHG methodology is not publicly available. **Bonsucro** and **Greenergy**, on the other hand, do not require actual GHG calculations apart from for emissions caused by direct land use change; both schemes only deal with sugarcane ethanol which, by RED default value, does meet the GHG saving minimum requirement even after 2018 when it will rise up to 60% compared to fossil fuel.

The seven recognised schemes and the assessment reports are published on the Transparency Platform of the European Commission at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/biofuels/sustainability_schemes_en.htm.

❖ Series of public BioGrace workshops finished with success

A total of around 400 stakeholders attended the public BioGrace workshops in seven different countries of the European Union. According to exit questionnaires at the closure of each workshop, expectations of the large majority were successfully met.

The public workshops

- ❖ presented the sustainability criteria for liquid biofuels of the RED and the FQD, and their practical implementation in the EU member states,
- ❖ provided an insight into ongoing European and international standardisation and harmonisation processes (CEN, ISO, etc.),
- ❖ explained the BioGrace greenhouse gas emission calculation tools which enable users to calculate actual values of biofuel greenhouse gas emissions according to the methodology laid out in the RED,
- ❖ included a practical calculation session.

All presentations can be downloaded on

http://www.biograce.net/content/workshops/pubic_workshops_presentation.

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