

BioGrace Newsletter #10 – September 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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- ❖ [Commission update report on sustainability of gaseous and solid biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling](#)

On 28 July 2014 the European Commission published its new report on the sustainability of gaseous and solid biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling.

The report consists of three documents:

- **Commission staff working document:** State of play on the sustainability of solid and gaseous biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling in the EU, SWD(2014)259
- **Joint Research Centre (JRC) Report:** Solid and gaseous bioenergy pathways: input values and GHG emissions, JRC Science and Policy Reports, Report EUR 26696 EN
- **Forestry Commission Report:** Review of literature on biogenic carbon and life cycle assessment of forest bioenergy.

The analysis confirms that a vast majority of the biomass and biogas used to achieve the EU's 20 percent renewable energy target will provide significant GHG emissions savings. The Commission therefore maintains the opinion of the first assessment report in 2010 (COM/2010/11) that it will not propose binding sustainability requirement on the Community level for solid and gaseous biomass. However, the Commission

recommends that Member States who introduce sustainability criteria on a national level ensure that these in almost all respects are the same as those for liquid biofuels laid down in the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC).

The 2014 Commission report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/bioenergy/sustainability_criteria_en.htm

❖ Version 1 of the BioGrace-II Excel tool out now

The above mentioned Commission staff working document brings an update of life cycle greenhouse gas emissions for solid and gaseous biomass used for electricity, heating and cooling. Furthermore some details of the calculation methodology have been updated, e.g. new fossil fuel comparators. In addition, the JRC report provides background information on the calculation of the default values.

Based on these two documents, we were able to set up version 1 of the BioGrace-II Excel tool. The tool features 19 out of the new 20 default pathways. Users are now able to retrace how these Commission default values were calculated and to calculate the GHG reduction value of their own solid or gaseous bioenergy carrier or their own biomass heat or power plant respectively.

The Excel tool contains the following default pathways:

- Wood chips from forest residues/ short rotation coppice (eucalyptus)/ short rotation coppice (poplar)/ stemwood/ industry residues
- Wood briquettes or pellets from forest residues/ short rotation coppice (eucalyptus)/ short rotation coppice (poplar)/ stemwood/ industry residues
- Agricultural residues
- Pellets from straw/ bagasse
- Biogas from wet manure/ maize/ biowaste
- Biomethane from wet manure/ maize/ biowaste.

During the next months the Excel tool will be further improved into a version 2. The pathway "palm kernel meal" will be added and the calculations for cooling will be enhanced. The Excel tool is now available to be tested by stakeholders. BioGrace will organise a number of stakeholder feedback sessions and a public workshop. Data are not yet known but will be published on the BioGrace-II website in the next weeks. Stakeholders are also most welcome to send in their comments or suggestions for improvement directly to info@BioGrace.net.

The improved version 2 is planned to be out in December 2014. It will come together with the user manual and with detailed calculation rules.

Version 1 of the BioGrace-II Excel tool is available at:

http://biograce.net/app/webroot/biograce2/content/ghgcalculationtool_electricityheatingcooling/overview

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