

BioGrace Newsletter #3 – May 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.

❖ Content

- [Calculation rules and user manual complete BioGrace Excel tool](#)
- [BioGrace Excel tool submitted for EC recognition](#)
- [German GHG calculators submitted for national recognition](#)
- [Public BioGrace workshops](#)

❖ Calculation rules and user manual complete BioGrace Excel tool

The BioGrace Excel tool reproduces the calculation of the 22 biofuel production pathways given in the RED. In addition to that, version 4 is delivering five important novelties that complete the calculation tool:

- an improved calculation sheet on annualised emissions from carbon stock changes caused by land-use change
- a calculation sheet on emission saving from improved agricultural management
- another sheet for the calculation of N₂O field emissions
- a detailed description of the BioGrace calculation rules
- a user's manual.

Calculation of the 22 biofuel production pathways is according to the RED Annex V- methodology. Calculations of land use change and improved agricultural management conform to the Commission's Decision of 10 June 2010. Emissions of N₂O from the cultivation of the crop follow the IPCC methodology. The N₂O calculation sheet will be updated in the near future after feedback from experts. We welcome input and comments on this sheet.

<http://www.biograce.net/content/ghgcalculationtools/excelghgcalculations>

❖ BioGrace Excel tool submitted for EC recognition

Version 4 of the BioGrace GHG calculation tool has been sent to the European Commission requesting for recognition as a voluntary scheme. Economic operators are free to choose whether they use the national scheme or a voluntary scheme in order to prove compliance with the RED sustainability criteria. Approved voluntary schemes apply through the entire European Union.

To our knowledge no other calculation tool for GHG emissions has been sent to the Commission for recognition. The BioGrace GHG tool only covers the calculation of the GHG impact of liquid biofuels and can be used as “add-on” to existing schemes that correspond to other requirements, i.e. the mass balance system that allows consignments of raw material or biofuel with differing sustainability characteristics to be mixed and an adequate standard of independent auditing.

❖ German GHG calculators submitted for national recognition

The national GHG calculators are designed to be “user-friendly” as economic operators may insert their individual input values into a preset template, which is adjusted to local production characteristics. In contrast to the Excel tool above, the national calculators do not give all details about the GHG calculation, and do not allow for designing own calculations.

The German partner of BioGrace, IFEU, has developed a set of seven calculators according to the various types of bioliquids and biofuels and is seeking approval by the German Federal Agency of Agriculture and Alimentation (BLE). The seven calculators are:

1. Palm oil greenhouse gas calculator
2. Ethanol greenhouse gas calculator (wheat, rye, barley, triticale)
3. Ethanol greenhouse gas calculator (sugar beet)
4. Ethanol greenhouse gas calculator (sugar cane)
5. Plant oil greenhouse gas calculator (rape seed, sunflower, soy)
6. Biodiesel greenhouse gas calculator
7. Biogas greenhouse gas calculator.

The palm oil calculator has been available online since September 2010. In July 2011 IFEU will put beta versions of the remaining six calculators on its website. A stakeholder workshop will then be organised in August in order to have feedback and be able to adjust the calculators to the users' needs.

<http://www.biograce.net/content/ghgcalculationtools/nationalghgcalculators>

❖ Public BioGrace workshops

Around 250 stakeholders have participated at one of the first four public workshops on Harmonised Calculation of Greenhouse Gas Emission in Europe. The series of seven workshops across Europe started in Austria in February and continued in the Netherlands in March; in April it came to Germany, and recently a workshop was held in France. Another three public workshops will be held end of May and beginning of June in Greece, Spain, and Sweden.

Each workshop will

- ❖ present the sustainability criteria for liquid biofuels of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) and the Fuel Quality Directive (2009/30/EC), and their practical implementation in the EU member states,
- ❖ provide an insight into ongoing European and international standardisation and harmonisation processes (CEN, ISO, etc.),
- ❖ explain 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 Renewable Energy Directive,
- ❖ include a practical calculation session, offering the opportunity to work on the calculation of specific biofuel production pathways.

Date	Place	Regional Focus (regarding the practical implementation of sustainability criteria)
16/02/2011	Vienna, Austria	Austria, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia, Lichtenstein
21/03/2011	Utrecht, The Netherlands	Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Iceland
14/04/2011	Heidelberg, Germany	Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland
19/05/2011	Paris, France	Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Malta
26/05/2011	Athens, Greece	Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey
31/05/2011	Stockholm, Sweden	Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Sweden, Norway
01/06/2011	Madrid, Spain	Italy, Portugal, Spain

Stakeholders invited are farmers, biofuel producers, and fuel suppliers, as well as auditors, advisors, representatives of voluntary sustainability schemes, greenhouse gas calculation specialists, and anybody else involved in the biofuels field.

All workshops are free of charge; **participants should register online** at <http://biograce.net/content/home/workshops/registrationform/>.

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