



AN INITIATIVE OF THE CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL

Action Plan

2024



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ACTION 1

MAPPING AND SYNTHESIS OF INTERNATIONAL BIOMASS STUDIES

OVERVIEW

Review and collect data from country or multi-country biomass assessments, to distribute them in a data-sharing portal that contains best available and citable data including the differences in definitions, assumptions, methods, and data sources used.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The absence of an internationally accepted benchmark report on biomass feedstocks fosters uncertainty regarding availability in the minds of investors and policymakers, creating barriers to investment and support for feedstock mobilization. The objectives of the proposal are:

1. Collect, review, and distribute the best available and citable global data on current biomass uses, and potential future availability as consistently as possible.
2. Based on lessons learned from objective 1, draft a standard schema and accompanying guidance designed to help others update and harmonize future assessments of global sustainable biomass supplies.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Develop and test an approach to collect, review, compile, and distribute best-in-class data and analysis to document biomass feedstock production, current uses, and additional supply potentials.
- Collaborate with Biofuture Platform and other stakeholders to identify existing initiatives and sources of information, and to encourage steps to fill data gaps.
- Provide a pilot data-sharing portal to share best available data, to serve as a go-to knowledge resource for decision makers (based on Biomass KDF platform).
- Draft a set of recommendations designed to help others update and improve future assessments of global sustainable biomass supplies.



EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

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| Mapping of stakeholders with interest in using the proposed deliverables | Dec 29 |
| Literature review and report mapping the institutions involved in recent sustainable biomass supply assessments, emphasizing Biofuture partners. | Jan 31 |
| Inventory of existing assessments, including total identified sustainable supplies, current use, potential availability | Ver 1 Feb 29 Ver 2 Apr 30 |
| Report draft 1: testing approach for collection, analysis, organization, and consolidation of assessment data. | May 31 |
| Draft Glossary of key terms, definitions, and conversion factors | Jun 28 |
| Report draft 2, consolidating data from multiple assessments to develop global estimate of biomass use and supply potentials | Aug 30 |
| Pilot international feedstocks data portal for global bioenergy decision support. | Sep 30 |
| Guidelines for future country and global biomass assessments | Sep 30 |
| Final Report to provide some high-level analysis the data gathered, as well as recommendations for future work | Oct 30 |

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

CONTACT PERSON: Daniel De La Torre Ugarte (danieltu(at)ornl.gov)



ACTION 2

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL BIOENERGY POLICIES

OVERVIEW

In July 2023, the IEA presented key findings of the “Biofuel Policy in Brazil, India and the United States – Insights for the Global Biofuel Alliance” report at a special meeting of ministers convened at the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting. The report, developed in collaboration with the Biofuture Platform, adapted and updated policy blueprints the Biofuture Platform produced in 2022. During 2024, we suggest expanding the country coverage to include other countries and regions such as the European Union, Argentina and Australia (to be decided with interested member countries).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

Research questions

Research questions may include, but are not limited to:

- What is the current status of bioenergy production and use over 2010 to 2024?
- What policies have been used to promote bioenergy over 2010 to 2024?
- What lessons did the country or region learn over the time period? This includes both issues that were resolved and policies that worked well.
- What are the current challenges in the region to future bioenergy deployment?

Objectives

Improve the bioenergy communities understanding of bioenergy policies, policy lessons, challenges and potential solutions in diverse global markets. (Where appropriate and possible we will include bioproducts alongside bioenergy).

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Identify priority two or three regions/countries to include in the analysis.
- Meetings with members countries related to the selected regions.
- Report draft.
- Sharing for comments with member countries and action team.
- Publication on the webpage (no workshop expected, unless specifically requested by member countries).

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

- Report, date TBD

LEAD ORGANIZATION: International Energy Agency

CONTACT PERSON: Jeremy Moorhouse (jeremy.moorhouse(at)iea.org)



ACTION 3

REPORT ON CARBON INTENSITY (CI) AND ACCOUNTING

Action 3 is divided into two sub-actions, the first one led by the IEA and the second one led by US DOE/ORNL.

PART 1: Report on Carbon Accounting in Policies for Biofuels and Bio-based Products

OVERVIEW

As a starting point to guide the following discussions, a report will be prepared documenting the different methods and approaches used to assess Life Cycle carbon intensity of biobased fuels. Focus will be on approaches applied or required by different regulatory frameworks and standards (ICAO-CORSIA, EU-RED, Brazil-RenovaBio, US- GREET model and RFS, California-CARB, Canada's Fuel LCA Model and CFR, among others) with a summary to clearly illustrate the differences in approaches and implications for producers.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this action are:

- To provide clarity on the methodologies that are used in current regulations in different countries, highlighting the differences in approaches and their impact
- To guide informed discussions about potential harmonization needs
- To identify the main issues that need to be taken into consideration or developed, that are related to carbon intensity accounting in transport
- To identify the main guidelines and recommendations for future regulations

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

The work, which will run from January to May, will be performed by an external experienced contractor.

The list of activities identified for the work are the following:

- Design of the scope of work.
- Informational and preparatory meetings with Campaign and TAG.
- First draft of the report (external consultant) --> 30 April.
- Sharing of the report for comments with Action Team, Core group members, Campaign and TAG.
- Presentation of results in Workshop at ETWG3 Brazil Belo Horizonte, 26-27 May
*(see also Part 2 below).
- Final report, including feedback and conclusions from workshop --> 30 June 2024.



EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The deliverable will be a report that will include two parts:

- A mapping of existing regulations based on methodologies that include carbon accounting or carbon intensity, including what approaches are most often being used in practice and why, what models they are based on, what do they include, main assumptions.
- Conclusions from the discussion of the mapping: what are the key limitations that arise in fulfilling regulatory requirements, what differences in approaches generate the largest sources of variability and uncertainty in CI results, what are the main issues or impacts around carbon accounting in bioeconomy that still need to be addressed. Main guidelines on LCA methods and approaches and recommendations for future regulations.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: International Energy Agency

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PART 2: Workshop to discuss results from reports produced in Part 1 and to recommend practical way forward.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

- Coordinate with Brazil to plan and host technical side event (workshop) – possibly in conjunction with the ETWG meeting late May (Jan-Feb).
- Invite stakeholders from government, industry and NGOs (Feb-Mar).
- Present and discuss results from consultant report(s) (o/a May 24-25).
- Develop proposed way forward focusing on consistent, transparent, evidence- based accounting method that is practical and verifiable.
- Develop draft summary workshop report with policy recommendations for CEM15.
- Share draft summary report for comments with Action Team, Core group, Campaign, TAG members (June) - Revise with input from stakeholders (July) and approval by AMG (Aug-Sept).
- Publication in the webpage (workshop to follow, covered in part 2 of the task) and presentation as policy brief for CEM15.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

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ACTION 4

JOINT STATEMENTS

OVERVIEW

Joint Statements document positions of key stakeholder groups regarding role and value proposition for accelerating the development of a sustainable bioeconomy.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

Decision makers and general public lack clear and reliable information regarding the scientific consensus on the potential role for biomass and the bioeconomy to help achieve goals related to sustainable development, an inclusive circular economy, and GHG emission reductions.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

1. Contribute to a joint statement developed among international organizations being coordinated by GBEP. The statement will emphasize the role of biomass in achieving sustainable development and more inclusive, net zero circular economies.
2. Update and synthesize priority points from Biofuture Initiative members, building on CEM 13 Statements, and elevate selected topics for consideration by G20 and CEM15 in coordination with Brazil.
 - A. Specific policy actions that are recommended to overcome barriers to accelerated biomass deployment;
 - B. New initiatives (emblematic deliverables) targeting significant outcomes.
3. New initiatives (emblematic deliverables) targeting significant outcomes Develop a briefing on NGO perspectives highlighting areas of agreement and disagreement on the role of biomass in sustainable development. A synthesis report will summarize stakeholders' key concerns and how to address them by building on areas of common understanding and agreement and developing strategies to collaborate based on common goals.



EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

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| 1.1. Comments on joint statements & review with Core Group | Dec-Jan |
| 1.2 Review and comment on final drafts of unified statements | Feb |
| 1.3 Reviews, iterations, and approvals by AMG (Biofuture) and others (FAO/GBEP, IEA, IEA Bioenergy TCP, IRENA, OECD, UNIDO etc.) – consensus statements on the foundational role of sustainable biomass for achieving climate and sustainable development goals | March-May |
| 2.1 Action Team draft of key issues focusing on actions, targets and effective policies to mobilize investment in sustainable bioeconomy – distribute to Brazil and CG for comment. | March-April |
| 2.2 Draft V2 of key issues for review by AMG and coordination of presentation strategies with Brazil | May 15 |
| 2.3 Finalize selected topics for consideration by G20 and CEM15 | July 15 |
| | |
| 3.1 Update summary of key stakeholder issues and review with TAG | Feb 15 |
| 3.2 Outreach and consultation support draft report on stakeholder reactions to the draft joint statements and role and limitations of biomass in achieving net zero and SDGs – for review by Action Team and TAG | March-April |
| 3.3. Synthesis report highlighting points of agreement and identifying avenues for resolution of disagreements - for review by Action Team and CG | May 30 |
| 3.4 Revised synthesis report for approval by Biofuture Platform: “Building on common ground with stakeholders” (including NGO critics) and strategies to address key concerns | July 30 |
| Presentations for BBEST and IEA Triennium | Oct |

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

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