

Update on GBEP's GHG Methodologies Taskforce



2nd GBEP GHG Taskforce Meeting March 7, 2008

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Background

- GHG methodologies taskforce established by GBEP steering committee in May 2007.
- Desired end result is flexible methodology for policy makers in all countries.
- First taskforce meeting held October 2007.
- Second meeting scheduled for March 6-7 2008 and will include solid biomass and liquid biofuels.



Taskforce Work Plan

GBEP Steering Committee set forth 5 key elements of taskforce:

1. Review existing methodologies;
2. Develop a harmonised approach so GHG lifecycle assessments can be compared on an equivalent basis;
3. Encompass the full well-to-wheel lifecycle of transport biofuels;
4. Not indicate a preference for any particular existing methodology or feedstock, or to limit parameters; and
5. Define parameters and inputs to be considered when conducting a LCA and develop a good practice document.



Results of 1st Meeting

- Accomplished review of existing efforts in defining methodologies
- Reached broad agreement that it is possible to develop common methodology
- Developed preliminary list of parameters needed for a common methodology in a “checklist”
- Recognized issues needing further discussion



Results:

Development of a Common “Checklist”

- The GHGs to be covered;
- The effects of direct land use change, both in terms of above and below ground carbon inventories;
- The effects of the production cycle, including fertilizer production, agricultural inputs and processing energy;
- Combustion of the finished biofuel and tailpipe emissions; and
- Corresponding factors to facilitate comparison with the fuel replaced.

Results:

Main Issues Needing Further Discussion



- Accounting for co-product emissions;
- Ensuring transparency in default values and parameters used, and assumptions made, in conducting a GHG lifecycle assessment;
- Whether and how to take account of the effects of indirect land use change;
- How to take account of future technologies (e.g. cellulosic) in the design of the methodology.



2nd Taskforce Meeting

- Includes work on solid biomass which GBEP Steering Committee asked for at last meeting.
- Main focus will be on indirect land use and modeling assumptions and default values.
- Will also focus on updates of recent policy developments and develop sub-groups for further work.



Next Steps

- Continue meeting and define timeline for finishing final methodology by March 2009.
 - Goal to have first draft of checklist of what should be included in an LCA by late 2008
 - Draft of checklist will be made available for comment
 - Comments incorporated and submitted to GBEP Steering Committee for approval
 - After comments GBEP will develop a template and good practice guidance on what the methodology should be as well as guidance for policy makers