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