

Biomass Workshop Series 2020-21

REDII Implementation and Beyond



Exploring REDII Implementation and Delivering Good Woody Biomass

We are pleased to announce that registration for the series of online workshops devoted to exploring REDII implementation and delivering good woody biomass is now open. Visit the SBP website at <https://sbp-cert.org/news/events-and-training-sessions/workshop-series-2020-21/> to register and secure your spot.

About the Workshop Series

The impending implementation of REDII by Member States and the recently launched review of REDII raises the profile of the role of woody biomass in achieving climate goals, and how sustainability of biomass should be defined and applied in practice.

In parallel to the development of the policy debate, biomass producers and forest owners strive to deliver legal and sustainable biomass ('good biomass') to EU Member States.

This series of online workshops aims to reach key stakeholders and contribute to the dialogue on how sustainable biomass is defined, what REDII implementation looks like in practice and how to ensure good biomass is supplied and used in a way contributes to climate goals.

Participation in the workshops is free of charge, but places are limited.

Who's talking?

The Workshop Series will bring together stakeholders with a range of interests and backgrounds to collectively share solutions on defining, delivering and using good biomass as part of the renewable energy mix. The events will showcase unique perspectives from scientists, environmental and social practitioners, EU policy makers and Member State regulators, energy generators, biomass producers, and both large and small forest owners as they discuss the implementation of REDII and beyond.

The events will be facilitated by Dirk Hulverscheidt using workshop platform tool, Howspace, to enable interaction between presenters and participants.

Online workshop 1: Ongoing developments in EU Member States and the role of REDII 5 October 2020 15.00-18.00 (CET)

Several Member States have already developed their own systems for determining the sustainability of biomass (Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK,) and with supply chains already feeding these markets we can learn from the application of existing policy. Other countries currently have no dedicated systems in place for bioenergy and will need to implement the REDII requirements from scratch, even as REDII is being opened for review. Under REDII, verification of the sustainability claims takes place either through: a) national rules/schemes (involving Member States' authorities); or b) voluntary schemes (national/international) recognised by the European Commission.

REDII allows Member States to go beyond the criteria set in the Directive. The likelihood of that happening and how to manage the divergence should it happen are important considerations in facilitating efficient adoption.

Themes

- Variation in implementation of sustainability safeguards between Member States; how wide is the gap and what can be done to minimise it?

- What makes good regulation for biomass; what lessons have been learnt?

Confirmed speakers include **Bodil Harder (Danish Energy Agency)** providing a view from a Member State, **Michelle Koper (Navigant)** on outcomes of the REDII BIO study, **Liliana Gamba (WWF)** providing an NGO perspective, **Lotta Heikkonen (Confederation of European Forest Owners)** on REDII and the EU Forest Strategy, and **Simon Armstrong (SBP)** on what makes good regulation. In addition, **DG Energy** has been invited to provide an update on the status of REDII guidance.

Online workshop 2: Biomass supply from in- and outside the EU 19 October 2020 15.00-18.00 (CET)

The biomass supply chain, from small and large forest owners, through biomass producers to end-users, must implement REDII sustainability criteria. This workshop offers stakeholders the opportunity to explore experiences to date and covers key sourcing areas including the US, Canada and Europe.

Themes

- How do forest owners, biomass producers and end-users, as exporting and importing countries, view the REDII criteria?
- Observations on Article 26, para 5 sustainability criteria for forest biomass (LULUCF)
- Perspectives from countries not ratifying the Paris Agreement

Speakers include **Mike Williams (Westervelt)**, and biomass producers from US and Europe, including **Jennifer Jenkins (Enviva)**, **Ernst Eriksen (HedeDanmark)** and **Mikhel Jugaste (Graanul Invest)**. **Richard Perbedy (Drax)** on the energy generator's experience, an **NGO** perspective, as well as the smallholder perspective from **Sarah Crow (American Forest Foundation)**, with views from **regulators** and **policy makers**.

Online workshop 3: How to ensure that using biomass maintains and protects biodiversity 9 November 2020 15.00-18.00 (CET)

While biodiversity safeguards are an integral part of both REDII and all voluntary certification schemes, questions remain whether these criteria are sufficient and whether they can be implemented effectively.

Themes

- Keynote: strategic view on biodiversity and forests
- European Commission biodiversity strategy perspective
- What does the science tell us?
- Biodiversity and landscape level impacts
- How are standards addressing this?
- How can theoretical/scientific concepts be implemented and monitored on the ground?
- Sustainability standards
- How can sustainability safeguards be effective in improving public confidence in biomass sustainability?

Online workshop 4: Carbon, forests and climate impacts of woody biomass 30 November 2020 15.00-18.00 (CET)

Although widely recognised as a form of renewable energy, the climate benefits of biomass are questioned by some who view that benefits accrue over a time horizon that may vary from a few years to several decades. With no harmonised methodology available for companies to demonstrate climate benefits and verify balanced carbon stocks, the issue is complex. During the workshop we will discuss different views and models, including the REDII methodology and how companies can demonstrate that the use of 'good biomass' helps to facilitate climate goals.

Themes

- What timeframes are acceptable for bioenergy systems to deliver climate benefits compared to fossil energy systems?
- How can these timeframes be determined (with a simple set of rules for a wide variety of settings)?

- The role for certification schemes, such as SBP, in guaranteeing climate benefits

Online workshop 5: Social impacts of woody biomass 20 January 2021 15.00-18.00 (CET)

Social impacts (both positive and negative) are currently not addressed in REDII and EU national legislation. However, the public debate shows a keen interest in social issues for all supply chains, including biomass production and processing. Social risks are specific to local and regional conditions. How can we learn from the experience of other supply chains to find a practical and impactful way to address social risks and promote benefits?

Themes

- Keynote: challenges in workers and communities in around forests and supply chains
- Practitioners perspective on health & safety
- Forest production and livelihoods
- Learning from other sectors and practitioners on broader social issues
- NGO and service provider perspective
- Sustainability standards