

The Transatlantic Trade in Wood for Energy: A Dialogue on Sustainability Standards and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

October 23 – 24, 2013
Hilton Desoto Savannah
Savannah, Georgia

Organized by:



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Wednesday October 23

8:00 AM	Introduction—Meeting Kick-Off, Welcome from the Planning Committee.
Full Breakfast Available at 7:00AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) (10 minutes) <i>Al Sample and Brian Kittler, Pinchot Institute.</i> Meeting Objectives, Outputs and Desired Outcomes. Review of agenda/logistics.b) (10 minutes) <i>Tat Smith, University of Toronto/IEA Task 43.</i> Welcome from IEA. Reflections on what has transpired in the year since the Quebec City event.c) (10 minutes) <i>Robert Farris, Georgia Forestry Commission.</i> Welcome to Georgia. The local perspective: Opportunities, priorities, and sustainability challenges.

8:30 AM	<p>Panel 1—Factoring the Big Picture into Notions of Sustainability.</p> <p>a) (15 minutes) <i>Martin Junginger, Utrecht University/IEA Task 40.</i> The strategic importance of the Southeast US in global biomass trade.</p> <p><u>Questions for presentation and discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much biomass is projected to be demanded by international buyers, and how much is expected to come from the US south and other regions of North America? 2. Over what time period will this demand come online and when will supply be needed? <p>b) (30 minutes) <i>Dave Wear, USDA Forest Service.</i> Status, trends, and challenges for southern forests.</p> <p><u>Questions for presentation and discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What issues will confront southern forests in the next 20 - 50 years? 2. What landownership demographics and land use trends are important to consider when evaluating potential impacts of new biomass demand? 3. How does projected demand for wood and paper products and domestic bioenergy growth compare with European demand for pellets and chips? 4. How might bioenergy demand (domestic and export) exacerbate or ameliorate the sustainability challenges facing the US and South? 5. How might all of these markets interact? <p>c) (15 minutes) <i>Bob Abt, North Carolina State University.</i> Forecasting possible futures. What can we reasonably speculate about future market demand and supply response?</p> <p>d) (15 minutes) <i>Steven Prisley, Virginia Polytechnic and State University.</i> Factoring sustainability metrics into pellet mill feasibility assessments and regional supply assessments.</p> <p><u>Questions for presentation and discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What aspects of sustainability can we measure to help answer whether there is enough biomass now and in the future? Is there room for a new industry going forward? 2. Which aspects of sustainability can regional and facility-scale supply assessments readily consider? 3. How can regional supply and supply chain level feedstock assessments inform our understanding of biogenic carbon flux?
9:45AM	(10 minutes) BREAK
9:55AM	(30 minutes) Moderated Panel Discussion

10:25AM	<p>Panel 2—Measuring Sustainability and Risk.</p> <p>a) (20 minutes) <i>Virginia Dale, Oak Ridge National Lab.</i> Aligning measurable and meaningful bioenergy sustainability indicators with sustainability criteria and existing sustainability programs.</p> <p>b) (15 minutes) <i>Judy Dunscomb, The Nature Conservancy.</i> Biodiversity in the south’s working forests.</p> <p>c) (15 minutes) <i>Jason Evans, University of Georgia.</i> Biodiversity risk assessment when establishing supply chains.</p> <p><u>Questions for presentation and discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the US analyze and consider sustainability impacts, and how does this align with biomass supply pathways? 2. What criteria and indicators are being analyzed (and at what scales) to protect ecosystem values in the US? How can sustainability indicators, and at what scale, be used to evaluate the sustainability of forest resource management? 3. How can sustainability indicators be used to provide a feedback loop for policy adjustments?
11:15AM	(15 minutes) Moderated Discussion
11:30 AM	<p>Panel 3—International Sustainability Criteria for Solid Biomass.</p> <p>a) (10 minutes) <i>Asger Strange Olesen, Policy Officer/END, European Commission, Directorate General Climate.</i> EU level sustainability criteria.</p> <p>b) (10 minutes) <i>Emily Fripp, Senior Consultant and CPET Project Manager, EFCA.</i> Example of member state level criteria, the UK CPET program.</p> <p>c) (10 minutes) <i>Volker Türk, EON.</i> Corporate level; the goals and process of the Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers group.</p> <p>d) (10 minutes) <i>Keith Kline, ORNL.</i> ISO development of "Sustainability Criteria for Bioenergy" (ISO 13065): current status, opportunities and obstacles.</p> <p><u>Questions for presentation and discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What processes are being used to define sustainability criteria? What scale is this happening at and who is involved? 2. Will country and EU level criteria be harmonized and if so, when? 3. What are the objectives of the IWPB process and who is participating? 4. What are buyers’ and regulators’ views of US sustainability, risk assessment and risk mitigation? 5. How do we reach common understanding on supply requirements that inform buyers, consumers, and regulators of bioenergy sustainability, yet do not create trade barriers or perverse incentives on the ground?

12:10PM	(20 minutes) Moderated Discussion
12:30 PM	LUNCH
1:20 PM	<p>Panel 4—Environmental Risk Mitigation and Procurement Practices</p> <p>a) (15 minutes) <i>Guy Sabin, South Carolina Forestry Commission</i>. Approaches to managing biomass sustainability at the landowner scale (e.g. Voluntary incentive programs, regulatory programs, and the role of stewardship plans and practices (e.g. forest stewardship plans, timber harvesting BMPs, biomass harvesting BMPs).</p> <p>b) (15 minutes) <i>Uwe Fritsche, IINAS</i>. Meta-study on energy wood certification.</p> <p>c) (10 minutes) <i>Mieke Vandewal, Control Union</i>. Application of the Green Gold Label.</p> <p>d) (10 minutes) <i>Bob Simpson, GreenWoodGlobal Consulting, LTD</i>. Procurement pathways in the US.</p> <p>e) (10 minutes) <i>David Refkin, Greenpath Sustainability Consultants</i>. Market signals for sustainable sourcing and green purchasing.</p> <p><u>Questions for presentation and discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which sourcing pathways are presently being used in the US south? 2. How do state and federal regulations (CWA and ESA), landowner incentive programs, voluntary BMPs, biomass harvesting guidelines, and other government sustainability programs factor into procurement requirements? 3. What key elements of certification programs (i.e. certified forest management, certified sourcing, certified chain-of-custody, 3rd party inspection) are directly relevant for sustainability criteria? 4. Are landowner-scale requirements for documentation requirements realistic? 5. Are risk-based approaches to procurement feasible and/or desirable?
2:20 PM	(10 minutes) BREAK
2:30 PM	(30 minutes) Moderated Discussion
3:00 PM	<p>Panel 5 - Greenhouse Gas Accounting – Methodologies and application to the policy and operations level.</p> <p>a) Overview of biogenic carbon analyses and lessons learned from southeast US carbon accounting case studies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. (20 minutes) <i>Patrick Lamers, Utrecht University/Task 40</i> II. (20 minutes) <i>Thomas Buchholz, Spatial Informatics Group</i>

(60 minutes) Moderated question and answer panel [*Moderator, Martin Junginger*]

- *Reid Miner, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement*
- *David Pare, Natural Resources Canada*
- *Fanny-Pomme Langué, AEBIOM*
- *Chris Galik, Duke University, The Nicholas Institute*
- *David Carr, Southern Environmental Law Center*
- *Steve Hamburg, Environmental Defense Fund*

Questions for presentation and discussion

1. What are the key variables influencing estimates of greenhouse gas outcomes?
2. What is the relative degree of influence that each of these variables has on greenhouse gas outcomes and how “controllable” are these variables?
3. How do time and scale assumptions, including short vs. long-term greenhouse gas impacts and tradeoffs influence analyses of GHG benefits? Is a “correct” answer possible?
4. Given the areas of agreement and disagreement within the scientific community, what options are on the table for policy makers to address greenhouse gas impacts?
5. How do bioenergy specific GHG estimations relate to national GHG policies, priorities and reporting/accounting? Does LCA matter if each emission source in the life-cycle is already accounted?
6. How do we consider bioenergy production in the context of fossil fuel use?

5:00 PM

Reception

Thursday October 24

6:30 AM	Breakfast
7:00 AM	<p><u>Buses depart for the Study Tour at 7:00 AM</u></p> <p>On Bus Presentation: <i>Nathan McClure, Georgia Forestry Commission</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of southeast Georgia’s forests, landownership demographics, and fiber markets. • Georgia Forestry Commissions’ timber ticket material tracking system. <p>On Bus Presentation: <i>Mike Jostrom, Plum Creek</i>. Overview of Plum Creek’s lands in Georgia and the industrial land base in the south.</p>
8:00 AM	<p>Stop 1—Biomass Supply from Certified Industrial Forests.</p> <p>Ten year old stand – 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plum Creek’s management objectives for local unit, and the role of biomass markets and biomass harvesting in meeting these management objectives • Description of management activity underway and market outlets. • Estimate of volumes of biomass coming from these lands over the course of a rotation of industrial pine. <p>Load buses and drive to active second thinning – 30 minutes</p> <p>Active second thinning – 90 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plum Creek’s load tracking and chain-of-custody approach. • Viewing of BMPs. Discussion of BMP programs. • Plum Creek’s investments in forest management certification and chain-of-custody certification. • Market outlets and connections to the regional biomass supply.
10:15 AM	<p>Load Bus and travel to stop 2.</p> <p>On Bus Presentation: <i>Brian Kittler, Pinchot Institute</i>. Four biomass procurement pathways in operation in the workshop study area.</p>
11:15 AM	<p>Stop 2—Biomass Supply from Non-Industrial Private Forests - Harris Property. Lunch provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Forest Landowner</i>. Management objectives for their land and stewardship philosophy. • <i>Dan Len, USDA Forest Service, Regional Biomass Coordinator</i> • <i>Mark Frye, Wayne County Extension Service and Rita Barrow, USDA NRCS</i>. Incentives and technical assistance for stewardship plans and practices. • <i>Tommy Joines, Georgia State American Tree Farm System Program Chairman</i>. • <i>Steven Myers, Fram Renewable Fuels</i>. Supplies from non-industrial forests

12:45 PM	Load Bus and travel to Georgia Biomass Plant.
1:45 PM	Stop 3 – Georgia Biomass Pellet Mill. Tour Guide: <i>Barry Parrish, Procurement Forester, Georgia Biomass LLC</i>
2:45 PM	Travel to Georgia Forestry Commission Office
3:15 PM	Stop 4 – Meeting Wrap Up at the Georgia Forestry Commission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Barry Parrish, Procurement Forester, Georgia Biomass LLC</i> • <i>Peter-Paul Schouwenberg, Essent</i> • <i>Wade Dubea, Southern Group of State Foresters, Louisiana State Forester</i> • <i>Brian Kittler, Pinchot Institute</i>
4:00 PM	Adjourn; Drive to Jacksonville Airport or Savannah.
5:30 PM	Arrive at Jacksonville Airport or Savannah. <i>Flight to Miami leaves Jacksonville at 7:35 PM.</i>