

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels



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We are an international multi-stakeholder initiative developing principles and criteria for sustainable biofuels production that will be:

- **Simple, accessible** and implemented worldwide
- **Generic** to all crops
- **Adaptable** to new information
- **Efficient and cheap** to measure
- **In line with WTO rules**
(use ISEAL code)

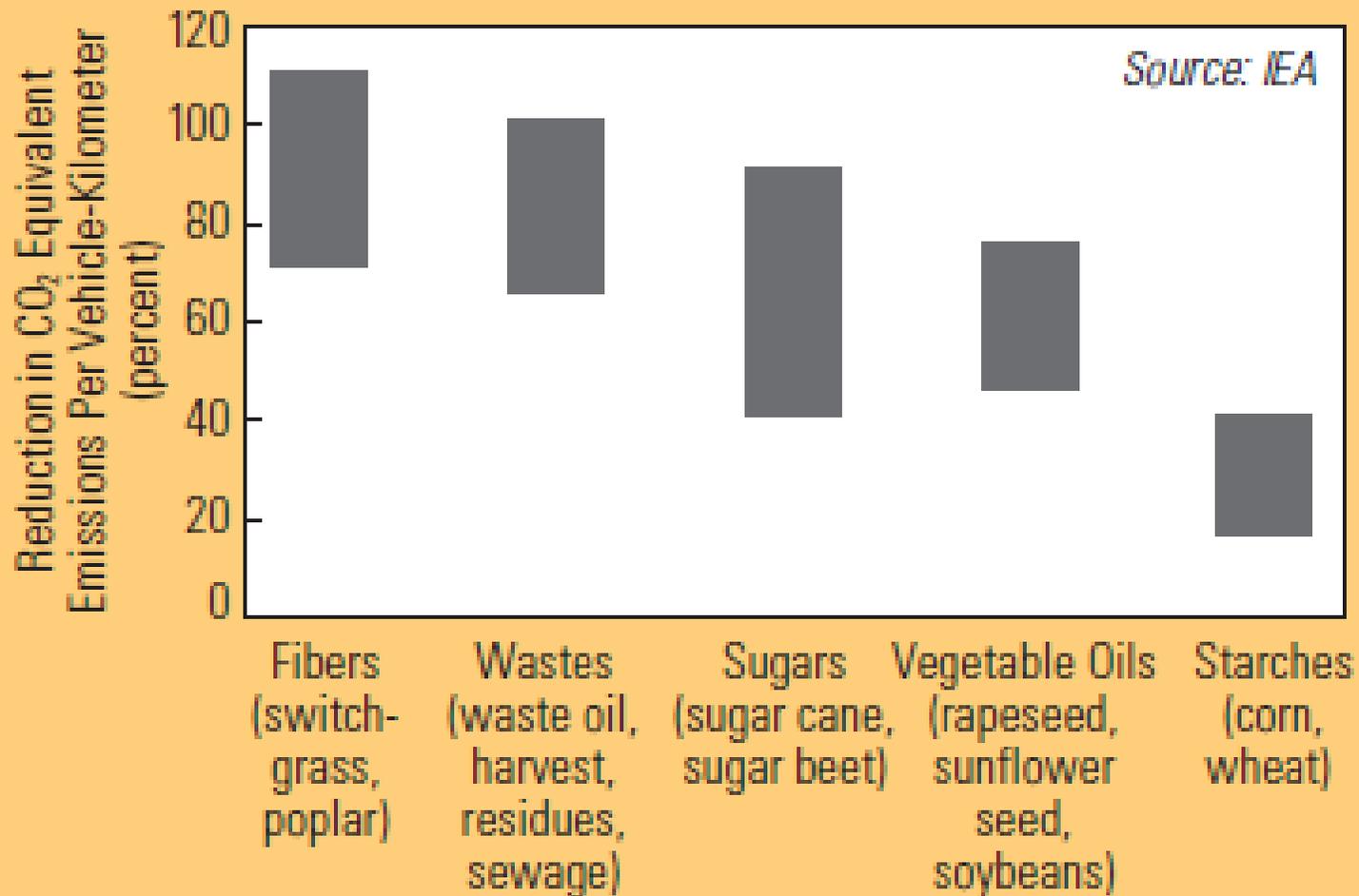


Environmental and Social Concerns

- Land rights
- Labor conditions
- Contribution to rural development (job creation, small farmer support)
- Water use
- Conversion of biodiverse habitats
- Soil quality, including stored carbon
- Local air pollution
- True GHG benefits vs. fossil fuel

Life-cycle GHG emissions

Figure 5. Potential Reductions in GHG Emissions, by Feedstock Type



Draft RSB Principles

- **National Law** (esp. re. land, labor, water rights)
- **Community Consultation** (esp. to determine land rights, social & environmental impact, idle land, resolve grievances)
- **GHG** – positive balance over lifecycle, including direct & indirect effects
- **Environmental** – conserve and protect high conservation values, soil, water, air; responsible use of biotechnologies
- **Social** – biofuels should benefit rural communities and workers; should not contribute to food insecurity
- **Technology** – potentially hazardous technologies (for instance GMOs) should be used responsibly and transparently

Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels - Draft Scorecard Concept

	Overall Energy and Greenhouse Gas Efficiency	Conservation of Natural Resources				Social Concerns	
	Total score for product life-cycle (well-to-wheel)	biodiversity	soil health	air quality	water use	Food security	Working conditions
Considerable reduction of ecol./ social footprint	Low GHG emissions, maximize carbon sequestration (e.g. low-till)	Biodiversity corridors, using degraded land	Restore degraded land	No sig. impact on air quality on farm or at processing facility	Use of non-thrifty crops	Use of degraded or idle land	Best-practice wages and working conditions
Small or no reduction on ecol./ social footprint	10-90% GHG emissions as compared to fossil fuel	Buffer zones	erosion protection	Moderate impact on air quality	Moderate impact on local water quality, quality		
No or negative impact on ecol./ social footprint	High N2O emissions from fertilizers, conversion of high carbon-stock land	Deforestation, habitat encroachmt.			Water pollution, significant reduction in water availability		Hazardous or illegal working conditions

How is the RSB organized?

- One **Steering Board** composed of international stakeholders from National Wildlife Federation, UNEP, UNCTAD, Shell, WWF, BP, Petrobras, Toyota, TERI India, Mali Folkecenter, Bunge, and others.
- One **secretariat** based at EPFL. Coordination of the RSB.
- Four **Working Groups (GHG, Environment, Social, and Implementation)** + smaller **Expert Advisory Groups** to make recommendations to the Steering Board. 180 participants from international organisations, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions have signed up for one or more Working Groups.
- **Global stakeholder** feedback at every step (blogs, meetings, wiki technology, pilot projects, regional outreaches)
- Innovative **transparent standard-setting using www.BioenergyWiki.net**, to share background information and share comments with other participants.

Timeline

- Draft standard by June, 2008
- Second half of 2008: governance, implementation, pilot testing
- Collaborate with other initiatives and governments on accounting for emissions from indirect land use change, mitigating ‘displaced deforestation’



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