An introduction to the Sustainable Biomass Partnership

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Outline

1. Who are we and why do we exist?
2. What do we do?
3. What progress has been made?
4. What next?
SBP is an industry initiative

Seven critical market players using woody biomass for large-scale heat & power generation in the European Union

The challenge

- To tackle global warming, EU generators are encouraged by the EU and national governments to switch from fossil fuels to renewable feedstock. Financial incentives are provided so that generators can compete with conventional fuels such as coal and gas but this support is contingent on generators demonstrating that feedstock is legally and sustainably sourced.

- Ideally, the sector would rely on existing credible certification schemes for sustainable forest management (Why invent your own?)

- SBP recognises the credibility of existing forest certification schemes (FSC/PEFC) and does not wish to compete with or replicate them.

- However, these forest-level schemes have insufficient take-up in key forest-source areas and lack some of the key elements needed for biomass so a bridging solution is required.
SBP structure

Governance:
Incorporated in UK as not-for-profit company.
Board is key decision-making body.

Standards Development Group

Advisory Board
Advisory role

Comms. Working Group
SBP vision & objectives

SBP has set out its vision and objectives that set the direction for its work in 2014-2016:

**Vision:** to enable an economically, environmental and socially sustainable solid biomass supply chain that contributes to a low-carbon economy.

**Objectives:**

- To provide an effective mechanism that enables producers and users of solid biomass for energy production to demonstrate compliance with end user (European/national) regulatory requirements and alignment with existing widely-accepted sustainability standards
- To promote enhanced sustainable forest management and greater uptake of existing efficient and internationally recognized, third party verified forest certification schemes in key wood baskets
- To contribute to a strengthened scientific evidence base and a greater understanding of issues associated with the use of solid biomass for energy production
- To deliver increased transparency of supply-chain performance and data.
SBP work programme

The focus is to develop solutions, short-term and long-term:

- **Short term 1: Biomass Assurance Framework** - a set of standards, structures and processes to provide a first-step solution to demonstrating regulatory compliance which builds on and aligns with existing FSC and PEFC processes as far as possible – ‘SBP-compliant biomass’

- **Short term 2: Biomass Routes** - working with certification schemes to identify opportunities for deeper integration so that their certified material can meet more of biomass users’ requirements e.g. biomass-specific GHG modules

- **Medium-long term: Wood basket partnerships** – helping projects which are working to support sustainable forest management and to increase uptake of FSC & PEFC certification in key wood baskets.
Building the Biomass Assurance Framework

Aim and scope

• Aims to provide effective and verifiable assurance to cover all those countries in which SBP member companies operate
• Regulatory alignment whenever necessary
• Facilitate trading
• Certification of production unit e.g. pellet mill rather than forest-level
• Alignment where possible with globally recognized forest certifications schemes (FSC/PEFC)
• Many of the SBP processes are derived from FSC and PEFC
• SBP Approved Certification Bodies will be FSC or PEFC-accredited
• FSC/PEFC-certified material accepted
• Risk-based approach for non-certified material

Hitting a moving target!

Setting terms of debate

Providing a solution for regulators

‘Licence to operate’.

Lack of confirmed EU or national standards so need to work with what is available. Therefore, regulatory compliance demonstrated using the most comprehensive & stringent national requirements:

• GHG data to be carried along supply chain – using Belgian requirements
• Legality - from EU Timber Regulation
• Sustainable Forest Management criteria - based on UK Government’s Timber Procurement Policy (CPET Category B) requirements + NL criteria
• Chain of custody - Mass Balance approach
The certification concept – feedstock, pellet mill and biomass
Key concepts in summary

• The Biomass Assurance Framework comprises standards, structures, systems and processes

• SBP certifies 3 components: Sustainable Feedstock, Chain-of-Custody, Energy & Carbon Data collection

• Independent third-party certification

• Makes maximum use of FSC and PEFC and complements where necessary
  – Addresses specific biomass issues
  – Can be used in areas with limited uptake of FSC/PEFC certification

• Risk-based approach for non-certified feedstock
  – Central role for Pellet Mill - inspired by FSC ‘Controlled Wood’ approach

• Sustainable Feedstock Standard

• Stakeholder input in Supply Base Evaluation and Certification process
The Standards

The five Standards available on www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org:

1. **Sustainable Biomass Standard**: The Principles, Criteria and Indicators defining the management system needed to verify that feedstock is legal and sustainable.

2. **Verification of SBP-compliant Feedstock**: The method for the evaluation of the risk associated with feedstock.

3. **Certification Systems Standard**: The requirements on certification bodies in verifying compliance by SBP certificate holders.

4. **Chain of Custody Standard**

5. **Energy & Carbon Data Standard**: Methodology for collection of data along the supply chain.
**Focusing on sustainable sourcing solutions.**

The certification framework – structure, process and procedures

- **Biomass Assurance Framework: Scheme Architecture**
  - Structure, Process and Procedures

- **Sustainable Feedstock Standard (SFS) + Evaluation Process Standard**

- **Energy & Carbon Data Collection Standard**

- **Certification Systems Standard**
Focusing on sustainable sourcing solutions.

The certification concept – a risk-based approach

Supply Base Evaluation
Principles derived from UK TPP, including other relevant criteria

- Legality
- Ecosystems
- Environment
- Productivity
- Social
- Biodiversity
- Other Relevant Criteria

Regional Risk Assessment
Desk-based assessment against SBP-criteria – results in a risk rating for each indicator
+
Supplier Verification Program
Field-based assessment for those indicators for which no clear risk can be determined in RRA

PEFC/FSC certified feedstock

Low Risk Criteria
No further action needed

Specified Risk Criteria
Implement mitigation measures

Compliance
Review

SBP Biomass Assurance Framework

• Stakeholder consultation and engagement process undertaken

• Version 0.0 Beta standard in place

• Sector gearing up for test certification

• Further refinement will take place to:
  – take account of learnings from test certification
  – align with emerging regulatory requirements
  – address stakeholder issues

• Piloting SBP Regional/National Risk Assessment concept

• Work ongoing with PEFC to develop Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data module for use in PEFC chain-of-custody

Indicative timetable

• Summer 2014: BAF Version 0.0 Beta standard released for 'learning by doing'

• Early 2015: BAF Version 1.0 available

• Additional updates where needed e.g. to include regulatory updates

• 2015-16: Further refinement and strengthening

• Key aim is to more effectively embrace a wider group of stakeholders e.g. resource owners & NGOs

• End 2016: BAF Version 2.0 available
Future additional workstream options include.....

- Extending scope to more geographies
- Establishing supply-chain levy to support SBP work programme
- Establishing a fund to support wood basket partnerships
- Establishing a source of objective information on biomass
- Extension of Biomass Assurance Framework to cover other solid biomass e.g. from agriculture
Further information

www.sustainablebiomasspartnership.org

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