

Final Conference Announcement

**Greenhouse gas emissions from bioenergy
systems: impacts of timing, issues of
responsibility**

Brussels, Belgium, March 8th – 10th, 2010

Jointly organized by

IEA Bioenergy

Task 38 - Greenhouse Gas Balances of Biomass and Bioenergy Systems



Task 38 Website: <http://www.ieabioenergy-task38.org/>
Conference Website: <http://www.ieabioenergy-task38.org/workshops/announcement.pdf>

Background

IEA Bioenergy is an international, collaborative research programme on bioenergy aiming at improved international cooperation and information exchange (www.ieabioenergy.com). The primary goal of IEA Bioenergy Task 38 (“Greenhouse Gas Balances of Biomass and Bioenergy Systems”) is to investigate all processes involved in the use of bioenergy and carbon sequestration systems, with the aim of assessing overall greenhouse gas balances and supporting decision makers in selection of mitigation strategies. Participating countries are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the USA. The conference is part of a series of workshops and conferences organised regularly by Task 38. For more detailed information on the Task, its output, and on previous events see: www.ieabioenergy-task38.org/

Scope and objectives of the Conference

The IEA Bioenergy Task38 conference on *Greenhouse gas emissions from bioenergy systems: impacts of timing, issues of responsibility* consists of two days of presentation and discussion on issues including

- How can indirect land use change due to bioenergy be quantified and managed?
- What is the impact of timing of GHG emissions from land use change, and emission reductions and sequestration associated with bioenergy systems?
- Who should take responsibility for GHG emissions due to land use change associated with bioenergy?
- Can policy mechanisms be used to recognize impacts of timing, and issues of responsibility?

The goals of the conference will be to

- Share knowledge and increase understanding of the impacts of timing and issues of responsibility for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from bioenergy systems.
- Draft a summary document including recommendations, that will be circulated broadly, and presented to the IEA Bioenergy Executive Committee
- Convey the key points and recommendations in a briefing paper for policy-makers, to inform negotiations toward the post-2012 climate change agreement.
- Enhance an informal alliance of researchers interested in these topics, currently known as the “Graz Group”, that will continue to discuss these issues and work together to draft journal papers and briefing papers for policy-makers

If there is sufficient interest a series of papers will be collated for a special journal issue of a journal, such as Biomass and Bioenergy, and a drafting group will be established to prepare a synthesising paper that integrates the key points and recommendations of the meeting.

Keynote speaker: Michael O’Hare

Dr. Michael O’Hare is Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy, and Affiliate of the Energy and Resources Group, University of California at Berkeley. He has been a faculty member at MIT and Harvard, a bureaucrat in Massachusetts’ Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and has a research and teaching history across Energy and Environment, Arts and Cultural Policy, Higher Education Pedagogy, and Public Management. Currently he directs contract research at Berkeley for the California Air Resources Board for implementation of the state’s Low Carbon Fuel Policy. O’Hare was trained as an architect and engineer at Harvard.

Invited speaker: Miko Kirschbaum

Dr. Kirschbaum is Senior Research Scientist, Landcare Research, Palmerston North, New Zealand. His research involves modelling climate change effects on plant growth and carbon storage. He

developed the detailed forest growth model, CenW, which combines plant physiology, physical processes governing heat and water exchange and biological processes in the soil. He studies on the effect of stand-level net greenhouse gas emissions have considered feedbacks via the global carbon cycle and the differential longevity of different greenhouse gases. He has also developed an alternative method of biospheric carbon accounting, the Average Carbon Stocks approach, that would overcome many of the problems inherent in other approaches. He has contributed significantly to international assessments of climate change impacts, as Convening Lead Author of two chapters of the 1995 IPCC report of the impacts of climate change and as Lead Author to two chapters of the 2000 IPCC Special report on Land use, land-use change and forestry. It was through this work for the IPCC that Dr Kirschbaum became a part-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Venue

Belgian Comic Strip Centre, Brussels

The workshop will be held in the meeting room of the Belgian Comic Strip Centre (CBBD). Morning and afternoon coffee will be served. Lunch will be at the CBBD as well.

<http://comicscenter.net/en/about-us/in-short>

Excursion – March 10th 2010

The full day study tour will take participants firstly to the bioethanol plant **Biowanze** in Wanze (www.biowanze.be). After a lunch between 12 and 2 pm, the pellet power plant **Les Awirs** in Liège (http://www.electrabel.be/sustainable_development_corp/act_today_initiatives.aspx) will be visited. Departure time in Brussels is 8:30 a.m. Planned time to be back in Brussels is 5.30 pm.

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PROGRAMME

8³⁰ **Registration**

9⁰⁰ **Welcome**

Yves Schenkel, Walloon Agricultural Research Centre, Belgium

Susanne Woess-Gallasch, IEA Bioenergy Task 38 Management, Joanneum Research, Austria

Session 1: Introduction, background, methodological issues

9¹⁵ Keynote address: Adding when to the what, where, if and why of biofuels' indirect climate effects - and adding others to the list of usual suspects.

Michael O'Hare, University of California at Berkeley, USA

10¹⁵ Is bioenergy carbon neutral? An overview of the work of IEA Bioenergy Task 38 on GHG balances of biomass and bioenergy systems.

Annette Cowie, IEA Bioenergy Task 38 Management, National Centre for Rural Greenhouse Gas Research, Australia

10⁴⁵ General Discussion

11⁰⁰ **Coffee Break**

Session 2: Issues of Responsibility

11³⁰ The net-benefit of bioenergy for climate change mitigation.

Alexander Popp, Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany

12⁰⁰ Better use of biomass for energy. IEA RETD / IEA Bioenergy Position Paper.

Uwe Fritsche, Oeko Institute, Germany

12³⁰ Preserving the world's tropical forests: A price on carbon may not do.

Martin Persson, Chalmers University, Sweden

13⁰⁰ **Lunch**

Continuation of Session 2: Issues of Responsibility

14⁰⁰ Global Bioenergy Partnership: Version zero of the methodological framework for GHG LCA of bioenergy.

Horst Fehrenbach, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Germany

14³⁰ The EU Renewable Energy Directive and its implementation, including addressing indirect land use change.

Catherine Bowyer, Institute for European Environmental Policy, Belgium

15⁰⁰ Methodological issues on GHG emission calculations.

Paul Hodson, European Commission, DG TREN, Brussels

15³⁰ Coffee Break

Continuation of Session 2: Issues of Responsibility

16⁰⁰ Intensification of agriculture for bioenergy: Impacts on GHG emissions and biodiversity.

Jan Ros, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, The Netherlands

16³⁰ Opportunities and complications in the transition towards a sustainable bio-based economy.

Leen Gorissen, VITO, Belgium

17⁰⁰ Sustainable biomass imports - Challenges for GHG LCA methodology implementation within an operational verification procedure.

Chrystelle Verhoest, Laborelec, Belgium

17³⁰ General Discussion

18⁰⁰ Close of 1st day

19⁰⁰ Dinner

Tuesday, 9 March 2010

Session 3: Impacts of timing

8³⁰ Invited address: Reassessing optimal climate-change mitigation strategies through more explicit consideration of the role of time in impact assessments.

Miko Kirschbaum, Landcare Research, New Zealand

9¹⁵ On the timing of greenhouse gas emissions.

Neil Bird, IEA Bioenergy Task 38 Management, Joanneum Research, Austria

9⁴⁵ CO₂ perturbation and associated global warming potentials following emissions from biofuel based on wood.

Glen Peters, Center for International Climate and Environmental Research, Norway

10¹⁵ Coffee Break

Continuation of Session 3

10⁴⁵ Radiative forcing effects of forest fertilization and biomass substitution.

Roger Sathre, Leif Gustavsson, Mid Sweden University, Sweden

11¹⁵ Improved time accounting in the estimation of GHG emissions from indirect land use change.

Jesper Hedal Kløverpris, Novozymes A/S, Denmark

11⁴⁵ Future Bioenergy and Sustainable Land Use. The vision of the German Advisory Council on Global Change.
Michael Sterner, Fraunhofer IWES, University of Kassel, Germany

12¹⁵ General Discussion

13⁰⁰ Lunch

14³⁰ Discussion of recommendations, and planning for outputs

The conference participants will break into two groups which will focus on the two main themes of the workshop, issues of responsibility and impacts of timing. Each group will identify key issues, make recommendations for addressing these issues, and identify research needs and the possibilities to write a scientific paper.

Group I: Responsibility for emissions

Chairperson: will be defined

Rapporteur: will be defined

Group II: Impacts of timing

Chairperson: will be defined

Rapporteur: will be defined

15³⁰ Coffee Break

16⁰⁰ Closing Plenary

The closing plenary will bring the two groups together to summarise their discussion and recommendations. In plenary, the participants will define a working team and timeline for the finalization of the papers.

Chairperson: will be defined

Rapporteur: will be defined

17⁰⁰ Close of conference

Accommodation

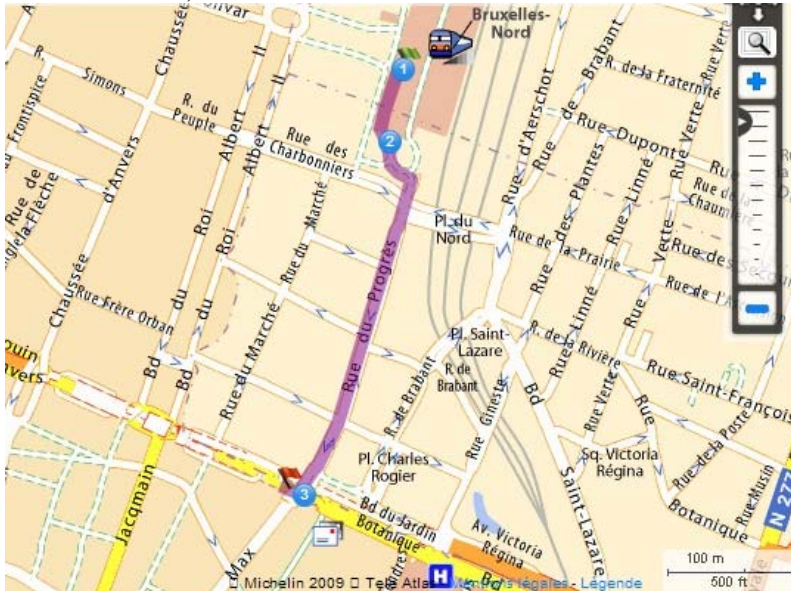
A block reservation at **Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre** has been made. We kindly ask the participants to make their room reservations themselves. Room reservations should be made as soon as possible and not later than February 7th, 2010. Please use the attached reservation form (see also last page of document):

We ask all IEA Bioenergy Task38 National Team Leaders to make their room reservation in the Thon Hotel as we will have our Internal Task38 Business Meeting (11-12 March 2010) in this hotel.

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 205 15 11
Fax: +32 2 201 15 15
Email: brusselscitycentre@thonhotels.be
www.thonhotels.be/brusselscitycentre
Daily rate: €125 for single room

For the location of the hotel in the city of Brussels, please have a look on:
<http://www.thonhotels.be/Hotel-Map/?back=688>

The Hotel Thon is less than 10 minutes walking from the North Station (Bruxelles Nord – Noord Station):



Here are links to additional hotels in the neighbourhood:

Hotel Astrid: <http://www.astridhotel.be/en/home.htm>

Hotel Bloom: <http://www.hotelbloom.com/central-brussels-hotel-,location-en.html>

Husa Presidentpark: <http://www.husapresidentpark.com/default-en.html>

Novotel Brussels Centre Tour Noire: <http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-2122-novotel-brussels-centre-tour-noire/index.shtml>

Hotel Alma: <http://www.almahotel.be/en/home.htm>

Hotel Aris: <http://www.arishotel.be/en/home.htm>

Getting to Belgium

For general information on Brussels, please see the website of the City of Brussels: www.brussels.be

The Brussels airport is situated about 20 minutes to an hour by taxi (according to traffic) from the centre of Brussels.

Direct train connections from the Brussels national airport to the City Centre leaves every 15 minutes.

The journey takes 10 to 15 minutes to the North Station:

<http://www.b-rail.be>

Getting from Hotels to the Venue

From Hotel Thon to the Belgian Comic Strip Centre it takes 10 minutes by foot:



Weather conditions in Belgium in March

In March the weather in Belgium can vary quite quickly. The temperatures in Brussels are normally between +0 °C and + 10 °C. It can be quite rainy and/or windy so appropriate clothing is recommended. For more weather information see [the webpages of Royal Meteorological Institute](#).

Registration Fee

All costs are in EURO:

Fee for Workshop participation (materials, coffee breaks, lunch 2 days):	€ 300.00
Fee for Workshop Dinner (presenters have not to pay for dinner)	€ 50.00
Fee for Excursion (10 March 2010)	€ 50.00

The deadline for registration and payment is February 19th, 2010

The registration fee can be paid by credit card (Mastercard or Visa). Please fill in the details on the registration form and e-mail/fax it to:

JOANNEUM RESEARCH (attn Ms. Monika Adamek)
Elisabethstrasse 5, A-8010 Graz, Austria
Phone: +43 316 876 1338, Fax: +43 316 876 91338
E-mail: ief@joanneum.at

If you are unhappy about faxing/e-mailing your credit card number, please call Monika Adamek.



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Brussels, 8 -10 March 2010

Registration Form

The deadline for registration and payment is February 19th, 2010

Please return this form by mail or fax to the address given below as soon as possible.

JOANNEUM RESEARCH (attn. Mrs. Monika Adamek)
Elisabethstrasse 5, A-8010 Graz, Austria
Phone: +43 316 876 1338, Fax: +43 316 876 91338
E-mail: ief@joanneum.at

- I will attend the workshop on 8 - 9 March 2010 (€300)
- I will attend the workshop dinner on 8 March 2010 (€50)
- I will attend the excursion on 10 March 2010 (€50)
- Special requirements (e.g. food):
- I cannot participate in the Conference but would like to be informed about its outcome

Name:

Field of work:

Institution:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Payment Details

Please debit my VISA or MASTERCARD (please circle one) €.....

Card number:

Expiry date:

Name on card:

Signature:

