

Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels

An initiative of the EPFL Energy Center

Ensuring that biofuels deliver on their promise of sustainability



Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels – Standard for Sustainable 'Version Zero' for global stakeholder feedback

Abstract of Principles

1. Biofuel production shall follow all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and shall endeavour to follow all international treaties relevant to biofuels' production to which the relevant country is a party.
2. Biofuels projects shall be designed and operated under appropriate, comprehensive, transparent, consultative, and participatory processes that involve all relevant stakeholders.
3. Biofuels shall contribute to climate change mitigation by significantly reducing GHG emissions as compared to fossil fuels.
4. Biofuel production shall not violate human rights or labour rights, and shall ensure decent work and the well-being of workers.
5. Biofuel production shall contribute to the social and economic development of local, rural and indigenous peoples and communities.
6. Biofuel production shall not impair food security.
7. Biofuel production shall avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and areas of High Conservation Value.
8. Biofuel production shall promote practices that seek to improve soil health and minimize degradation.
9. Biofuel production shall optimize surface and groundwater resource use, including minimizing contamination or depletion of these resources, and shall not violate existing formal and customary water rights
10. Air pollution from biofuel production and processing shall be minimized along the supply chain.
11. Biofuels shall be produced in the most cost-effective way. The use of technology must improve production efficiency and social and environmental performance in all stages of the biofuel value chain.
12. Biofuel production shall not violate land rights.