

# IEA Bioenergy TASK 40

Sustainable International Bioenergy Trade - Securing Supply and Demand

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## ABOUT US

Task 40 is an international working group under the IEA Bioenergy Implementing agreement. We conduct studies and organize events on various topics related to sustainable international bioenergy trade. Follow us on

<http://www.bioenergytrade.org>

The Task is jointly led and coordinated by Peter-Paul Schouwenberg (RWE Essent) and André Faaij (Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University), who will be succeeded by Martin Junginger (also UU) as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Chun Sheng Goh (also UU) is assisting and logistically supporting the Task. Kees Kwant (NL Agency) is Operating Agent for the Task.

## NATIONAL TEAM LEADERS

Please contact your national team leader for more information and how you can get involved with Task 40.

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## Upcoming events

### Workshop at the USIPA Conference, Miami, FL, US (27-29 Oct 2013)

Task 40 is partnering with the USIPA to organize a technical workshop at the 3rd Annual Exporting Pellets Conference on 29 October. The workshop focuses on safety issues on transportation and storage, as well as logistics of biomass supply chain.

About the conference: The conference will be held on 27-29 October at Fontainebleau Miami Beach Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida. Speakers will include all major European utilities, major U.S. producers, and experts in all areas of the supply chain.

Click [here](#) for more details.

### The Transatlantic Trade in Wood for Energy: A dialogue on Sustainability Standards at Savannah, GA, US (23-24 Oct 2013)

This workshop organized by Pinchot Institute and IEA Bioenergy brings together a diverse group of experts and stakeholders working on various aspects of the growing trade in wood biomass between the southeast US and Europe. It will include presentations, facilitated dialogue, and field tours examining how global trade in renewable bioenergy, especially wood pellet exports from the US to Europe, can meet broad expectations for sustainability, biodiversity, water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, etc. Participants will gain improved understanding of sustainable sourcing, and develop connections for future cooperation in establishing sustainability criteria and biomass supply chains. The participation in this workshop is limited.

### Workshop: Torrefaction of biomass, Graz, Austria (17 January 2014)

This workshop co-organized by Task 32, Task 40 and the SECTOR project aims to discuss the technical aspects of biomass torrefaction. It includes fundamental discussion, sharing of application experiences and presentation of demonstration plants. For more information, please contact:

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## Publication

**Book: International Bioenergy Trade: History, status & outlook on securing sustainable bioenergy supply, demand and markets**

Click [here for sneak peek!](#) The trade of global bioenergy commodities, such as ethanol, biodiesel and wood pellets has been growing exponentially in the past decade, and have by 2013 reached true

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"commodity" volumes, i.e. tens of millions of tonnes traded each year, and billions (both in US\$/EUR) of annual turnover.

IEA Bioenergy Task 40 was founded in 2004 and is now in its 4th triennium. For the past 9 years, task 40 has monitored the developments in international bioenergy trade, including the organization of about 20 workshops on trade-related topics, and the publication of over 100 studies, country reports, newsletters, etc. The amount of material produced over the years and insights gained in how biomass markets and international trade of biomass and biofuels has developed is impressive. Besides that the group has produced overviews and insights, also a large amount of practical experience has been brought together in what works and what doesn't. Last but not least, based on all this, there are clear(er) views on how to proceed to build working sustainable international biomass markets in the future. This book compiles those lessons and insights into an easily accessible book publication.

Expected publication date: Late autumn 2013. [Click here for more info.](#)

## Future perspectives of international bioenergy trade






August 2013 - This study aims to provide insight into "possible futures" of bioenergy trade and discuss implications and challenges related to different developments. The insight into future scenarios and perspectives of bioenergy trade revealed that substantial challenges for the future development of global and international bioenergy trade may be expected in the coming decades if a low carbon energy system is to be developed. The theoretical and technical biomass potentials in many models are often quite optimistic, and sustainable biomass potentials are only included to a limited extent, as these are often hard to quantify and are also not the main aim of the models. It remains to be seen how global, stringent mandatory sustainability requirements (e.g. on water use, biodiversity, forest carbon accounting and iLUC) would limit the production, trade and use of feedstocks in the first place, but also how practical certification of biomass would affect bioenergy trade.

[Download Summary](#)

## Low cost, long distance biomass supply chain

August 2013 - This report focuses on long-distance biomass supply chains, including ground-based supply of raw biomass to densification plants, and transportation of densified biomass to ports in other continents. It aims to: (i) provide an overview of the characteristics of three densified biomass forms; solid wood pellets, solid torrefied wood and liquid pyrolysis oil; for these; (ii) outline existing and future markets and specific supply chains for these products and explore large sources of biomass worldwide, some well-established and already being developed either for local use or trade, some only identified as a possible future potential source; (iii) highlight the importance of the costs of logistics in biomass supply chains; (iv) illustrate current cost structures of existing long-distance biomass supply chains, and (v) explore how the cost of current and future long-distance supply chains of wood pellets, torrefied pellets and pyrolysis oil could be lowered, and what this would require from the stakeholders involved.

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### Large industrial users of energy biomass

September 2013 - The objective of the study is to obtain a global overview of the biomass use in industrial applications and transport sectors. The study investigates data availability and challenges related to the identifying the largest industrial users of energy biomass. The aim is to compose list of world largest users of energy biomass. The study includes heat and power plants and biofuel plants.

The report will be published soon.

### The Science-Policy Interface on the Environmental Sustainability of Forest Bioenergy

May 2013 - This publication reports on the discussions and opinions expressed during an expert workshop on the environmental sustainability of forest bioenergy in Canada, held in Quebec on the 3-5 October 2012. The workshop was organised by the International Energy Agency Bioenergy Task 40 (International Sustainable Bioenergy Trade) and Task 43 (Biomass Feedstocks for Energy Markets), the IEA Bioenergy Executive Committee, the Faculty of Forestry, Geomatics and Geography of Laval University (Quebec, Canada), and Natural Resources Canada, with collaboration from the Global Bioenergy Partnership and the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. Participants engaged in dialogue critical for the formulation of rational policy to achieve sustainable forest bioenergy production systems.

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### On-going work

#### IEA Bioenergy Intertask Strategic Project "Sustainability of certified solid wood bioenergy feedstock supply chains: Ecological, operational and international policy perspectives"

The aim of this project is to provide background information on the operational and scientific aspects of sustainability criteria for solid woody bioenergy feedstocks to policymakers and other stakeholders for the development and possible extensions of the EU RED, certification systems, and national sustainability schemes. Furthermore, this is also seen as a possible input into the GBEP. The objectives of this project is to compare and contrast the proposed EU sustainability requirements for solid bioenergy with existing international trade in wood pellet supply chains, with a special focus on three case study countries that will likely play an important role in that trade, i.e. Canada, the United States and Russia.

For more information, click [here](#). For more details, please contact:

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