Pakalpojuma tehniskā specifikācija

Kvalifikācijas prasības

Kvalifikācijas prasības Baltijas Jūras reģiona 2007.-2013. programmas projekta "Bioenergy Promotion 2" 3.3. uzdevuma – "Popularizēt un pārbaudīt izstrādātos ilgtspējības principus un kritērijus publiskā un tirgus sektora dalībniekiem" īstenošanai piesaistītajam ekspertam:

- Izglītība - augstākā izglītība (maģistra grāds) attiecīgajā jomā:
  - Vides zinātnes vai dabas zinātnes;
  - Ekonomikas zinātnē;
- Pieredze ES programmu projektu ieviešanā (dalība kā ekspertam vismaz vienā līdzvērtīgā projektā) enerģētikas jomā;
- Pieredze sadarbībā un komunikācijā ar Latvijas pašvaldībām ilgtspējīgas enerģētikas plānošanas jomā (vismaz 5 pašvaldībās pēdējo 2 gadu laikā);
- Pētniecības darbs vai eksperta novērtējumu izstrāde vides pārvaldības jomā;
- Sadarbības pieredze ar dažādām projekta tematikas skartajām mērķgrupām Latvijā un starptautiski;
- Atbilstošas angļu valodas prasmes – rekomendāciju vai eksperta novērtējumu sagatavošana ilgtspējīgas enerģētikas jomā angļu valodā (vismaz viena pēdējos 2 gados);
- Komunikācijas prasmes;
- Starptautiskas sadarbības pieredze projekta tematikas jomā tiks uzskatīta par priekšrocību.

Iesniedzamie dokumenti:

- CV
- Eksperta pakalpojumu izmaksas

Pieteikumu iesniegšanas termiņš – līdz **2012. gada 6. novembrim plkst. 17:00**

Līguma izpildes termiņš – 2012. gada 30.novembris.

Eksperta darba uzdevums:

- Līdz 2012.gada 22.novembrim iesniegt vērtējumu par Ilgtspējīgas bioenerģijas ražošanas un izmantošanas principiem un kritērijiem (1-2 lapas), iepazīstoties ar Tukuma novada projekta gaitā izstrādāto Ilgtspējīgas enerģētikas rīcības plānu un projekta "Bioenergy Promotion" rezultātiem.
- Līdz 2012.gada 22.novembrim iesniegt apliecinājumu par vienu notikušu apmeklējumu pētāmajā objektā Tukumā.
- Līdz 2012.gada 22.novembrim iesniegt novērtējuma dokumenta Tukuma centralizētās siltumapgādes uzņēmumiem 2. sadaļu – īss apraksts par pētāmo kompāniju.
- Līdz 2012.gada 30.novembrim iesniegt Novērtējuma dokumentu atbilstoši izstrādātajam vērtējuma paraugam SIA "Tukuma Siltums" un AS "Komforts" uzņēmumiem (4-5 lapas angļu valodā). Izvēlēti kritēriji, kas adaptējami Latvijas situācijai, tos saskaņojot ar SIA "Vides investīciju fonds" projekta "Bioenergy Promotion 2" vadītāju.
- Līdz 2012.gada 30.novembrim iesniegt ieteikumus/ rekomendācijas lokālā un nacionālā un/vai ES līmenī, kā analizētie kritēriji un principi varētu tikt izpildīti (tie kritēriji un principi, kurus attiecīgajos piemēros nav izdevies ievērot), paskaidrojot, kas varētu būt kavējošie iemesli to izpildei šobrīd (2-3 lapas angļu valodā).
- Nodrošināt informācijas apriti, komunikāciju un sadarbību ar SIA "Vides investīciju fonds" projekta īstenošanā iesaistītajiem darbiniekiem, kā arī citu projekta partnerorganizāciju speciālistiem/ekspertiem, Projekta partneriem un Projekta uzraudzības iestādēm.

Novērtējuma dokumenta paraugs

Corporate bioenergy strategy assessment: The example of the *Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers*

Author: Michael Krug (Freie Universität Berlin, Environmental Policy Research Centre)

1 Introduction

The following assessment report has been prepared in the frame the Extension stage project *Bioenergy Promotion 2* which is co-financed by the European Union and the Government of Norway under the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme. *Bioenergy Promotion 2* aims to strengthen key results of the Main stage project *Bioenergy Promotion* (2009-2011) and involves 13 partner organisations. The project is coordinated by the German Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR).

In the absence of any binding EU wide sustainability scheme for solid and gaseous biomass **commercial actors and energy utilities** in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and elsewhere show increasing interest in setting up own or joining emerging **voluntary sustainability schemes** in the frame of their corporate social responsibility policies. Several large utilities with growing biomass import shares have developed corporate sustainability schemes. Other companies in the BSR consider developing such schemes. Sustainable biomass procurement and bioenergy production is a growing concern for municipally/publicly owned utilities.

One of the objectives of *Bioenergy Promotion 2* is to enter into a dialogue with public and private energy utilities and other market actors and to promote validation and "testing" of the principles and criteria for sustainable bioenergy production developed during the Main stage project *Bioenergy Promotion* (2009-2011). In a first step existing and emerging corporate sustainability initiatives in the BSR are being assessed by the project partners. The following report contributes to this exercise and covers the example of the corporate sustainability initiative "Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers"**.** The findings of the assessment shall be compiled and discussed during a workshop with selected energy utilities from the BSR to be held during 2013.

Brief description of the utility company/enterprise under consideration and its biomass sustainability strategy

The Initiative Wood Pellets Buyers group (IWPB) is a working panel of major European utilities that are using woody biomass, mostly in form of wood pellets in large thermal power plants. Major European inspection companies Control Union, Inspectorate and SGS have been associated to this group. The IWPB was launched by GDF Suez and power companies that combust large quantity of wood pellets. Further members include RWE, E.On, Vattenfall, Drax Plc, and Dong, as well as certifying companies SGS, Inspectorate, and Control Union. Laborelec participates in this work panel as a technical expert. These players represent a large share of the European wood pellet market and, in the absence of a binding EU biomass standard; their initiative is expected to significantly influence the biomass market in the coming years.

The main purpose of the IWPB is to facilitate the trading of wood pellets through the design of common product specifications and sustainability principles. The market of wood pellets has been growing in recent years, also due to increasing (co)firing of wood pellets in power plants which can be regarded a cost efficient way to reduce carbon emissions and dependency on fossil fuels.

IWBP appears to have agreed that it will base its sustainability program around the Green Gold label (GGL) that is currently being used by RWE. The GGL accepts certification under the following current schemes: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Forest Management (CSA FSM) and the Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS). The PEFC, accepts the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certification

scheme as well. Major US wood pellet producers—Georgia Biomass, Green Circle Bio Energy and Enviva already have GGL certification.

Assessment

- *To which type of biomass do the corporate sustainability principles and criteria apply?*

The sustainability principles and criteria apply mainly to wood pellets.

- *To what extent does the corporate sustainability initiative consider the following principles: Biodiversity, Resource efficiency, energy efficiency, climate change mitigation efficiency, social and economic issues? Please, shortly describe.*

The draft principles that the 'Initiative Wood Pellets Buyers' has defined for wood pellets are summarized below.

IWPB SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: GREENHOUSE GAS BALANCE (GHG)
The GHG savings along the entire life-cycle, taking into account the whole supply chain including production, processing, transport and end-use are at least 60% with respect to reference fossil fuels.

Principle 2: CARBON STOCK
Production of woody biomass does not take place at the expense of significant carbon reservoirs in vegetation and soil.

Principle 3: BIODIVERSITY
Production of wood biomass may not take place in areas with high biodiversity value, unless evidence is provided that the production of that raw material did not negatively interfere with nature protection purposes.

Principle 4: PROTECTION OF SOIL QUALITY
Production of woody biomass should maintain or improve the soil quality.

Principle 5: PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY
Production of woody biomass should not exhaust ground and surface water and should avoid or significantly limit negative impacts on water.

Principle 6: PROTECTION OF AIR QUALITY
Production of woody biomass should avoid negative impact or significantly reduce impact on air quality.

Principle 7: COMPETITION WITH LOCAL BIOMASS APPLICATIONS
Production of woody biomass should not endanger food, water supply or subsistence means of communities where the use of this specific biomass is essential for the fulfilment of basic needs.

Principle 8: LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE
Production of woody biomass should respect property rights and contribute to local prosperity and to the welfare of the employees and the local population.

Principle 9: ETHICS
Ethical issues that the organization should uphold include at least health & safety, respect of internationally proclaimed human rights, freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, elimination all forms of forced and compulsory labour, effective abolition of child labour, elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, promotion of greater environmental responsibility, high standards of business integrity, including the work against corruption in all its forms.

Source: IWPB Working Group on Sustainability 2012

The principles are numbered but there is no priority ranking related to their numbering. IWPB requests full transparency on the realization level of all principles for sustainable biomass.

Though, a distinction is made between "WILL" and "AIM TO" principles as follows: The first three sustainability principles are fundamental issues: they are **mandatory criteria** listed in the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and applying to bioliquids and biofuels. Compliance with these sustainability principles must be verified by independent inspection companies. Those principles are therefore meant as "WILL". Inspection companies like SGS, Inspectorate and Control Union have been associated to the IWPB work.

The remaining principles are issues that must be considered for sustainable solid woody biomass but they appear to be more difficult to verify extensively. Therefore the IWPB aims for those principles to be taken into consideration, and that a report is made by an independent body providing transparency on the way those principles are fulfilled. The IWPB expects that feedback of this report to the suppliers will allow them

to improve their performance over time. Those principles are therefore meant as “AIM TO”. This shall not mean that they are less important than those listed as “WILL”.

- *To what extent do the corporate sustainability P&C meet or exceed the P&C recommended by the EU Commission contained in the Biomass Sustainability Report COM(2010)11[1]?*

The minimum GHG saving target of 60% is more ambitious than the savings target recommended by the EU Commission (35%). *Text to be further prepared by FFU*

- *To what extent do the corporate sustainability P&C meet or exceed the P&C developed in the Bioenergy promotion Main stage project?*

The minimum GHG saving target of 60% is less ambitious than that target recommended by the Bioenergy promotion partners (80%). *Text to be further prepared by FFU*

- *How is verification of compliance with the P&C ensured?*

The first three criteria cover the mandatory criteria listed in the RED for bioliquids and biofuels. Wood pellets deliveries must always meet those requirements. Compliance with these sustainability principles must be verified by independent inspection companies. Those principles are therefore meant as “WILL”. Inspection companies like SGS, Inspectorate and Control Union have been associated to the IWPB work.

The remaining six criteria are more difficult to verify extensively. Therefore the IWPB aims for those principles to be taken into consideration and that a report is made by an independent body providing transparency on the way those principles are fulfilled. The IWPB expects that feedback of this report to the suppliers will allow them to improve their performance over time. Those principles are therefore meant as “AIM TO”. This does not mean that they are less important than those listed as “WILL”. It does however mean that the thinking on those subjects is still evolving; it is therefore important to promote a continuous circle of improvement, rather than to adhere to a standard which is reasonable today, but outdated tomorrow.

- *Please, describe the **chain of custody**[2] system (e.g. Mass balance system, book and claim system?)*

The scheme envisages verification by independent bodies. Verification might evolve to certification. *Text to be further prepared by FFU*

Experiences and lessons

- *What are the experience and lessons of the company with its sustainability scheme?*
- *Does the company plan any further development/optimization of the P&C?*

Regarding the ongoing discussions at EU level, IWPB has expressed its views and recommendations as follows:

- The implementation of sustainability criteria must avoid unnecessary burdens on companies and market.
- Cross-compliance of available certification systems for forestry like PEFC/FSC or existing and well applied national legislation can be used to demonstrate conformity with some of the IWBP principles, but it is important to note that they generally do not cover GHG balance and carbon stock change that are fundamentally important issues for bio-energy applications.

[1] See above

[2] A **Chain-of-Custody (CoC)** system is the chronological physical or electronic documentation—and/or paper trail—showing the acceptance/purchase, custody, control, transfer and disposition of a product or associated sustainable attributes. **Physical segregation:** Certified products are physically segregated from non-certified products at every facility along the supply chain. **Mass balance:** The amount of certified product sourced and sold by each supply chain actor is tracked. However, the certified product and associated documentation do not need to be sold together. The certified product can either be segregated (site level or tank level mass balance) or not (company level mass balance). **Book-and-claim:** The certified product is completely decoupled from sustainability certificates, and both certified and non-certified products flow freely through the supply chain. Sustainability certificates would be issued by an independent issuing body (IPIECA 2012).

- In order to come to a level playing field and an efficient European market, the sustainability criteria should be uniform and set at European level.
- It is important to realize that non-binding (voluntary) sustainability criteria allow room for the use of non-sustainable biomass; and this is damaging the business by deteriorating the acceptance of biomass as a cost efficient substitute for carbon heavy fossil fuels. Therefore IWPG recommends binding criteria on sustainability.
- Criteria for sustainable production of liquid, solid and gaseous biomass should ideally be based on the same concepts. However, mandatory sustainability criteria should be implemented in a very careful and practical way and based on clear and measurable indicators only. They should take into account the widely different environmental issues in different Member States and climatic zones, bearing in mind two key purposes – to ensure the sustainable production of biomass and and acceptable GHG for biomass utilized for energy production.

- *Does the company plan to join any other initiatives, standards (e.g. meta-standard)*

Text to be prepared by FFU

- *Which strengths/shortcomings of the corporate sustainability strategy are highlighted by the public, NGOs or other stakeholders?*

The following citation stems from Ernsting 2012:
"*Although the IWPP criteria might sound ambitious compared to the EU recommendations, there is no indication that IWPB is serious about developing any robust system for verifying compliance across supply chains. Cross-compliance with forestry certification schemes is proposed, which means that any FSC, PEFC, SFI or other certificates, however flawed, would suffice to "prove" that principles have been adhered to. Even without such certification, verifiers could evaluate practices "against international acknowledged sustainable forest or agriculture management schemes or against well established environmental guidelines"—vague wording that is wide open to interpretation. Like the corporate sustainability policies detailed above, the proposed IWPB standard appears little more than a declaration of general principles. In essence, "proof" of compliance will, it appears, merely require a statement from one of several verification consultants instructed by an energy company. No transparency rules or avenues for appealing against certificates have been proposed*."
Text to be further prepared by FFU

References

Ernsting, Almuth (2012): Sustainable Biomass: A Modern Myth. Biofuelwatch. 12 September 2012.

Initiative Wood Pellets Buyers (IWPB) Working Group on Sustainability (2012): REPORT n°1 Proposal for Sustainability Principles for Woody Biomass Sourcing and Trading. Version after Joint meeting Schipol, 5 June 2012.

IPIECA (2012): Chain of custody options for sustainable biofuels. 2010.

NN (2012): Biomass criteria by default: will Initiative Wood Pellet Buyers set the agenda? EU Forest Watch Issue 168 February 2012.

Pelkmans, Luc et al. (2012): Final report. Prospective study: Implementation of sustainability requirements for biofuels and bio-energy and related issues for markets and trade. Study accomplished within IEA Bioenergy Task 40. 2012/TEM/R/043. February 2012.