Biomethane and the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Biomethane for Transport 3rd March 2008

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Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership

Accelerating a sustainable shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels in the UK

Stimulating opportunities for UK businesses





There are good and bad biofuels – assurance schemes can distinguish



% WTW GHG savings compared to petrol or diesel



LOWC^{VP} low carbon vehicle partnership

Derived from Concawe 2006

UK biofuel policy is designed to deliver GHG savings sustainably

- RTFO commences April 2008, requires suppliers of transport fuels to:
 - Sell a given amount of renewable transport fuel each year (for which they will receive certificates); or
 - Purchase certificates from another company; or
 - Pay a "buy-out" price of 22c/l duty differential of 45c/l retained
- From start reporting of the carbon and sustainability (C&S) of biofuels
- From 2010 proposed to link issuing of Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates to the carbon intensity of the biofuel
- From 2011 proposed to issue certificates only to sustainable biofuels





% Carbon Saving



Renewable Fuels Agency will regulate the RTFO

- Became a legal entity on the 26 October 2007
- Board appointed
- Location established Hastings
- User testing of software underway
- Guidance issued
 - For fossil fuel suppliers
 - For biofuel suppliers and traders
 - On Carbon and Sustainability reporting
- Training underway
 - With Obligated companies
 - On C&S reporting
- RFA will formally take over responsibility for the operational management of the RTFO from DfT in early April



"The independent sustainable fuels regulator"



The RFA is focused on creating a sustainable market for renewable transport fuels

The RFA will:

- Report to parliament on the RTFO
 - Carbon emissions
 - Sustainability
 - Volume returns
- Advise Government on the effectiveness and impacts of relevant policies
- Inform and influence international policy developments
- Deliver its responsibilities by:

/ehicle partnership

- Operating C&S reporting as part of the RTFO
- Undertaking research to evaluate indirect effects of renewable transport fuel
 - Indirect land use change
 - Influence on food prices and availability
 - Influence on other commodities



RTF Certificates issued on receipt of an appropriate C&S report

Reports must be supplied on all fuels for which RTFCs are claimed

- Monthly reports confidential annual aggregate reports published
- Comparative reports of company performance produced by the RFA
- No exclusions of feedstock/fuel & "Not known" reports permissible
- Independent verification of reports & claims
- Annual targets for company performance (initially no penalty for failing to achieve)

Company targets	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Percentage of feedstock meeting the 'Qualifying' Environmental Standard	30%	50%	80%
GHG saving	40%	45%	50%
Data provision	50%	70%	90%

C&S reporting will operate through a 2 stage scheme

Stage 1 Monthly Report

Step 1

Data sheet submitted *monthly* accounting for every litre of fuel for which a certificate is claimed.

Step 2

RFA issues certificate (if appropriate report has been received).

Stage 2 Annual Report

Step 3

Data is independently verified and an annual report is prepared.

Step 4

Supplier submits the annual report with verifier's opinion by 28th Sept.

Step 5

RFA reviews, approves and publishes the report.

Step 6

RFA prepares annual report



Key aspects of the RTFO for biomethane

Obligated suppliers are those that supply liquid fossil fuels

- No obligation is not placed on suppliers of natural gas for road transport use
- Biomethane as a road transport fuel <u>is</u> eligible for Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates
 - 1 RTF Certificate = 1 litre (for liquid fuels)
 - 1 RTF Certificate = 1kg (for gaseous fuels)
- Suppliers can meet their obligation through certificates generated by biomethane



By-products automatically meet the RTFO Qualifying Standard level

General Information			Sustainability Information			Carbon Information			
Fuel type	Quantity o	Biofuel	Feedstock	Standard	Env Level	Social	Land use	Carbon	Accuracy
	fuel	Feedstock	Origin			Level	on 30 Nov	intensity	level
							2005	incl LUC g	
	(kg)							COe/MJ	
Biomethane	250,000	MSW Manure	UK	By-prod	QS	QS	By-prod	36	2

- By-products automatically achieve QS-level: No standard needed
- No reporting on LUC needed
- □ (Reporting on carbon still required)
- List of by-products in Annex B of the Technical Guidance



The calculation of carbon intensity is a full well-to-tank assessment. The GHG savings are calculated on a wellto-wheel basis.





Tiered default values and real data used to report carbon intensity

Conservative defaults

Somewhat Conservative defaults

Typical defaults

0. Fuel defaults e.g. Biodiesel only

1. Feedstock defaults e.g. Biodiesel – oilseed rape

2. Feedstock & Origin defaults e.g. Biodiesel – UK, OSR

3. Selected defaults e.g. Biodiesel, - UK, OSR, CHP

4. Secondary 'actual' data e.g Chain default + some actual data

5. Actual data e.g Chain default + some actual data

Increasing information availability

> Increased accuracy of calculation

A default chain is provided for chains including biomethane but 'selected defaults' are available in order to provide more accurate GHG savings

Module	Input	Options
Feedstock transport	Transport mode fuel efficiency	Truck (by geographic region) Rail (by geographic region) Shipping
Conversion	Fuel emissions factor	Coal Natural gas Heavy fuel oil Biomass



The default assumes no credit for avoided emissions for biomethane but providing this evidence will improve GHG savings significantly



RTFO next steps

Launch event to mark the start of the RTFO on 15 April

- Obligated suppliers must register within 28 days i.e. 12 May (Or within 28 days of supplying more than 450,000 litres of fossil fuel)
- First reporting period closes on 14 May volume & C&S data required by Mon 16 June
- Expect to publish a report on that quarter by end September
- Legal obligation for RFA to report Annual Report 31 Jan 2010



Key messages

- There are good and bad biofuels
 - Biomethane is one of the best
- RTFO awards biomethane 1 certificate / kg fuel supplied for road transport applications
- RTFO commences 14th April
 - Suppliers should register soon
- RTFO includes a carbon and sustainability reporting requirement. Biomethane is:
 - A by-product
 - "Qualifying standard"
- GHG calculation includes "alternative waste management"
 - Suppliers must demonstrate previous waste pathway
- Future policy expected to reward biofuels according to their GHG-saving





Any Questions?

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