

Certification systems of relevance to SBP

For over three decades, certification systems addressing environmental, social and human rights issues have been in existence. Today, there are over 200 certification standards used in global supply chains, with over half of them related to forestry and logging, biomass and biofuels.

The key certification systems that operate within the forest/biomass sector are identified below. The SBP certification system draws heavily on well-proven forest-level certification systems, such as, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

It is not the intention to compete with or replicate what others do, but to fill the gap between those systems and the need to demonstrate that biomass is sustainable and can contribute to achieving climate goals. For example, there is limited uptake of certification in some key forest source areas and many systems do not cover all the key requirements faced by biomass end-users, such as the provision of data on the energy used in the production and transport of the biomass.

Forest certification

American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has been in operation since 1941. With a focus on small woodland owners, ATFS provides certification of sustainable family woodland systems and communities in North America. ATFS is endorsed by PEFC as a Sustainable Forest Management scheme.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) an international, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, started in 1994 as a certification system ensuring responsible management of forests around the world. FSC enjoys wide support from environmental NGOs.

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) was launched in 1999 and is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting global Sustainable Forest Management through independent third-party certification. PEFC does not itself develop forest management standards, but endorses schemes developed by national programmes.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) started in 2007 as a certification system providing assurance on supply chains, delivering conservation leadership and supporting education and community engagement in forests in North America. SFI is endorsed by PEFC.

Biomass certification

Better Biomass (previously known as NTA 8080), is an international certification system with a firm focus on the Dutch market. It was established in 2011 for solid, liquid and gaseous biomass used to demonstrate the sustainability of the biomass used for energy, fuels or bio-based products. Better Biomass is managed by NEN, the Netherlands Standardisation Institute. Better Biomass uses RVA, the Dutch Accreditation Council, as an independent accreditation body, and currently has two accredited Certification Bodies. Better Biomass is

recognised by the European Commission in accordance with the Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

Feedstock	Wood & agricultural products
Form	Solid & liquid
GHG data	Yes

ENplus was established in 2011 to ensure pellet quality (mechanical durability, percentage of fines, bulk density, etc) and conformity with ISO 17225-2:2014 in the residential heat market and to combat fraud along the supply chain.

The system was developed by the German Pellet Association and licensed to Bioenergy Europe, the European Biomass Association. (CANplus is the Canadian equivalent managed by WPAC, the Wood Pellet Association of Canada.)

GoodChips was launched in 2018 by Bioenergy Europe with the aim of guaranteeing the quality of woodchips and hog fuel in the European market. Like ENplus for pellets, GoodChips aims to create a common understanding of what quality means for these woody fuels and ensure their standardisation.

Green Gold Label (GGL) is an international certification programme for sustainable biomass established in 2002 and owned by the Green Gold Label Foundation (initially GGL was RWE/Essent's own verification system). Control Union Certifications is the sole Certification Body accredited by RVA, the Dutch Accreditation Council, for the GGL system.

Feedstock	Wood & agricultural products
Form	Solid & liquid
GHG data	Yes

International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) started in 2010 as a certification system covering bio-based feedstock and renewables. The system is based on RED. Independent accreditation is provided by ANSI, the American National Standards Institute.

ISCC is recognised by the European Commission in accordance with RED.

Feedstock	Wood & agricultural products
Form	Liquid
GHG data	Yes

REDcert was launched in 2010 based on RED. REDcert does not require independent accreditation of Certification Bodies.

The system is recognised by the European Commission in accordance with RED.

Feedstock	Wood & agricultural products
Form	Liquid
GHG data	Yes

[Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials \(RSB\)](#) is an independent, global, multi-stakeholder organisation established in 2009 that drives the development of a new world bio-economy through sustainability solutions, certification, innovation and collaborative partnerships. RSB uses ASI as its independent accreditation body.

RSB has certificate holders covering companies that produce cooking oil, sugarcane and animal by-products and has developed an RSB-RED standard that is recognised by the European Commission in accordance with RED.

RSB is a full member of ISEAL.

Feedstock	Wood & agricultural products
Form	Solid & liquid
GHG data	Yes

[Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#) started in 2004 as a certification system covering palm oil plantations and supply chain of palm oil. RSPO uses ASI as its independent accreditation body.

RSPO has developed an RSPO-RED standard that is recognised by the European Commission in accordance with RED.

RSPO is a full member of ISEAL.

Feedstock	Agricultural products
Form	Liquid
GHG data	Yes