

IEA Bioenergy

Task 29: Socio-economic Drivers in Implementing Bioenergy Projects: Education and Promotion

The Task on Socio-Economic Drivers in Implementing Bioenergy Projects (“Task 29”; duration 1 Jan 2003 – 31 Dec 2005) is an international collaboration within the IEA Implementing Agreement on Bioenergy. The aim of Task 29 to achieve a better understanding of the social and economic drivers and impacts of establishing bioenergy markets at the local, regional, national and international level, to synthesise and transfer to stakeholders critical knowledge and new information, to improve the assessment of the above mentioned impacts of biomass production and utilisation in order to increase the uptake of bioenergy and to provide guidance to policy makers. The participating countries are Canada, Croatia, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom.

In particular, the Task is seeking: to investigate different regional and national achievements in recognition and evaluation of social and economic benefits of biomass utilisation and drivers in implementing bioenergy projects. Other important task is to design and develop an ‘easy-to-apply and use’ socio-economic tools for local bioenergy projects based on the existing models and the recommendations derived from the previous work (2000-2002).

Among others, during the next three years deliverables will also include position paper outlining the benefits of bioenergy, posters, educational and Task 29 website with the possibility of producing a book about frequently asked questions on biomass and bioenergy. Educational website about biomass and bioenergy is designed to be visual and interactive as possible, aimed at a wide audience and very user friendly. Apart from interactive tools, the web also contains sections like ‘How to learn more’ with selection of scientific papers and useful links, ‘Test’ where visitors can test his knowledge, ‘Did you know?’ database and search engine. Questions about biomass and bioenergy are stored in a database to be answered by the webmaster or if more complex by a panel of experts. It would be a good educational tool for secondary school children upwards. At this stage the educational website is already operational and can be seen at www.task29.epsilon.hr.

IEA Bioenergy is an international collaborative agreement set up under the umbrella of the OECD, by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Work in IEA Bioenergy is directed by the Executive Committee and carried out through a series of Tasks, each having a defined work programme, budget and time frame. Each participating country pays a modest financial contribution towards administrative requirements, shares the costs of participating in specific Tasks and provides in-kind contribution to fund participation of national personnel. In many cases the in-kind contribution from a country is the national bioenergy R&D programme or a part of the programme.