

Standards Development Process: Public Summary

Purpose

SBP is developing its suite of standards through a comprehensive process of review and revision. This public summary provides an overview of that process, including how stakeholders can participate in it. Stakeholder engagement is at the core of our certification system and we welcome the views of all interested parties on what is working and what is not, as well as what you would like to see included in our standards in the future.

Introduction

Established to enable demonstration of compliance with biomass sustainability requirements, the SBP standards were first launched in 2015. Since that time, we have secured a firm foothold in the international market for sustainable biomass used in industrial scale energy production. Five years on, it is time to take stock and ensure that our standards are fit-for-purpose, not only for the markets they already serve, but as an off-the-shelf system of standards for emerging biomass markets.

Historically, our standards have evolved through the implementation of instruction documents, guidance documents and interpretations. All have been designed to address changing circumstances or aid the implementation of our requirements.

Our Standards Development Process will be informed by the experience we have gained over the past five years, changes in the external environment, such as new or revised legislation, advances in best practice, and ideas and suggestions from our many stakeholders.

The preparations and planning that have gone into the Standards Development Process have drawn on input from SBP's Standards Committee, Technical Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Group. In early February 2020, we invited all our stakeholders to provide their views on our standards by either undertaking a structured survey or simply by sending us feedback.

All of the aforementioned have provided a starting point for our Process.

Objective and scope

The objective of the Standards Development Process is to strengthen the credibility and robustness of the SBP standards.

The scope of the process is wide-ranging. All topics are up for discussion, including amongst other things:

- expansion into new feedstocks, new products, new markets;
- mapping onto relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically carbon/ climate goals, biodiversity and social safeguards;
- forest and natural landscape sustainability concepts of other sustainability standards;
- recognition of other certification systems;

- updates driven by new legislation and best practice; and
- suitable impacts to monitor and evaluate our desired and intended outcomes.

Process

We are committed to following the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice for standard-setting, assurance and impacts.

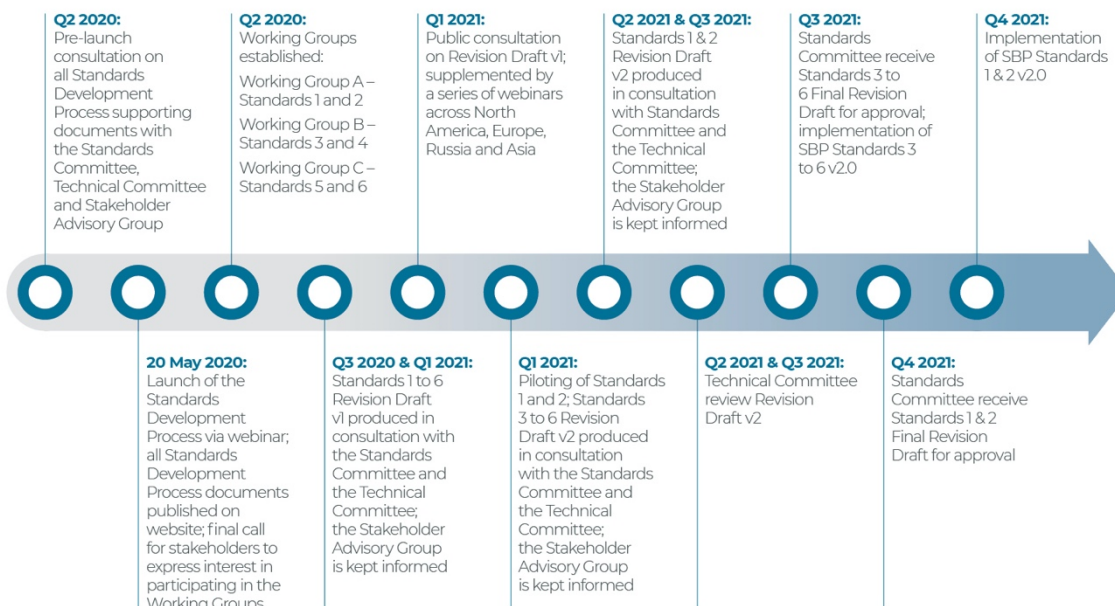
The Secretariat will project manage the Standards Development Process and support the work of the various Working Groups responsible for developing the content. The Process will receive significant input from our Standards Committee, Technical Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Group, as well as our Certificate Holders, Certification Bodies and our Accreditation Body.

There will be plenty of opportunities for all stakeholders to participate in the Process through getting involved in the work of the various Working Groups, public consultations, events or simply by getting in touch and providing us with views and ideas.

Ultimately, it will fall to our multi-stakeholder Standards Committee to approve the standards.

Timeline

The following timeline gives a simplified overview of the Standards Development Process:



Stakeholder engagement

We will conduct our Standards Development Process in a transparent and inclusive way, which means we will be open and honest in all that we do and responsive to the needs of the multiple stakeholders that we serve.

Our stakeholders are many and varied spanning those from civil society to those with commercial interests in the biomass sector. Each stakeholder group has a voice and we want to ensure that voice is heard.

Our multi-stakeholder governance system brings balance to our key decision-making body, the Standards Committee. Our Technical Committee combines expertise in forestry and certification with that at the practitioner level. And membership of our Stakeholder Advisory Group is open to all stakeholders.

We will also seek a balance of views through multi-stakeholder Working Groups, each of which will have an independent Chair. If you wish to participate in any of the Working Groups, please contact us with an expression of interest. Or if there is a specific topic that you would like to engage on, please let us know.

Even if you do not participate in any of the above you will still be able to have a say in what we do through various channels, including events and comment forms.

Overall, our approach aims to bring together all perspectives.

Contact us and get involved

As a stakeholder, your input is needed and you are encouraged to participate in shaping the future of SBP and its standards. The Standards Development Process has a dedicated section on our website, where you will find all the information you need, including how to contact us.

Visit <https://sbp-cert.org/standards-development/> and make a difference.