



## Sustainability Criteria for Biofuels

Good news - New Zealand biofuels are Sustainable biofuels!!

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It is well known and proven that the existing resources available in New Zealand such as tallow, used cooking oil, rotational oil seed crops and whey are indeed sustainable and moreover, are amongst the best performers in terms of net green house gas emission reductions. Longer term other sustainable feedstocks such as cellulose and algae will be utilised as technological developments evolve.

There is significant potential here for New Zealand to position itself as a leading producer and user of sustainably produced fuels. New Zealand has the unique opportunity to develop a biofuel industry that utilises existing resources that are available on a sustainable basis. By this we mean biodiesel from either tallow (rendered from beef or mutton fat), used cooking oil and fats, vegetable oil from rotational crops, ethanol from whey, ethanol from cellulose, algae oil options, etc.

These resources have a very favourable net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, they do not compete with food production nor do they threaten conservation areas. Rather they have the potential to reduce waste to landfill and give some value to otherwise low-value land. This is a 'win-win' situation.

It is likely that agreement of definition of 'sustainable' can be agreed for New Zealand and while work is progressing on this it should not be allowed to restrict growth and investment in the industry. To some extent there would be an element of self regulation as it is highly unlikely that any one of the oil companies would knowingly import fuel derived from the destruction of rain forest. Their brand reputation would not tolerate this. New Zealand can only benefit from sustainability mandate.

For international papers on Liquid Biofuels and Sustainability see here

In order to provide New Zealanders with confidence that they are using sustainable biofuels the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) has established a framework which allows biodiesel producers and retailers to report on the environmental credentials of their products. The reporting is voluntary but monitored by BANZ ( Bioenergy Association of New Zealand) and government.

New Zealand's voluntary reporting around the sustainability of the feedstocks used for the production of biofuels is an approach that has, given the size and transparency of the New Zealand market, been easy to implement and administer and is a cost effective approach that has the support of all key players in the sector. It is a win-win for the industry as producers recognise that 'sustainability' sells their product.

The sustainability reporting framework draws on international experience, in particular that of the United Kingdom Renewable Fuels Agency's Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (UK RTFO) and is consistent with best international practice. Fuels reported on must also meet the New Zealand Fuel Specifications.

A [Technical Note](#) sets out how the scheme works, what is disclosed by biofuel producers/ suppliers and presents a brief history of why biofuel sustainability needed to be addressed. Supporting materials that helped to inform the process and obtain Parliamentary endorsement are also listed.

Sustainability reporting is a key criteria for accreditation of transport biofuel producers and retailers within the BANZ Biofuel Accreditation Scheme [www.AccreditedBiofuels.org.nz](http://www.AccreditedBiofuels.org.nz)

New Zealand Biofuels Sustainability Scheme details at <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/node/8082>

## What is New Zealand doing on Sustainability?

### Standards New Zealand

- **ISO Sustainability Criteria for Biofuel** - Standards New Zealand sought stakeholder views in late 2008 on whether the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) should develop a new international Standard on Sustainability criteria for biofuels'. As a result of this consultation, New Zealand voted for the work to go ahead, and to participate in its development. A ISO 'Sustainability criteria for biofuel' meeting will be held 8th and 9th June 2009 in Berlin, Germany. The Agenda for this meeting is [here](#)

### EECA

EECA - has commissioned a project to look at Default values for GHG emissions in the New Zealand Biodiesel supply chains. In particular the study looks at the following:

- Used cooking
- Tallow
- Rapeseed oil

Preliminary findings from the project can be found [here](#). Final details are expected in late 2009.

*Other EECA Resources include:*

- [EECA Presentation on Sustainability of NZ Biofuels \(March 2009\)](#)
- [Additional reports on Biofuels Sustainability are on the EECA website](#)
- [Tallow as sustainable Feedstock for Biofuels - article by the NZ Renders Group of the Meat Industry Association](#)