

## Working Groups



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### Renewable Transport Fuels

The EIC Renewable Transport Fuels (RTF) Group is now in its third year of operation and has seen its membership and activities grow significantly in the last 12 months. The Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) has once again been a major focus of the Group's work, with Government consultation on the scheme reaching its final detailed stage. Members of the Group have been involved in work on the detailed design of the scheme, and the long-term aspirations on targets and fuel qualities.

A key area of the scheme that is attracting growing public attention is the accreditation of carbon and sustainability performance for each source of biofuels. EIC has always shown a strong commitment to demonstrating best environmental practice in return for public and political support for biofuels. The Groups Members continue to play a leading role with the Low Carbon Fuels Partnership in championing reporting schemes that will initially record carbon and sustainability performance, and soon determine levels of support for each stream.

EIC once again hosted a major conference on the RTFO, with keynote speakers from Government, the EU and the oil industry, as well as our own representatives from the biofuel industry. In addition to the RTFO, Group Members have been represented on or have responded to the following reviews of biofuels:

- The Royal Society biofuels study.
- EU Biofuels Directive Review
- EU Fuel Quality Directive Review
- HMRC review of definitions of biodiesel
- Treasury review of Enhanced Capital Allowances for biofuel plant
- Review of support and tax treatment for high blend biofuels
- Ad hoc departmental and ministerial discussions on biofuels
- Association of Petroleum and Explosives Authorities review of handling arrangements for high blend ethanol fuels.

The Group has also initiated a regular dialogue with the Environment Agency. Commencing with a joint EIC and Environment Agency seminar on regulating biofuels, a series of issues from planning consents, to regulation of co-products, are now regularly reviewed by a joint working group. The Group's membership has expanded once more, with over 50 members. New members include companies establishing major new biofuel plants and leading consultants. With membership now encompassing a range of interests from biodiesel producers (from reclaimed oils and new crops) bioethanol producers, equipment suppliers and consultants, the Group finds itself asked to input to a wide range of ad hoc technical, and political debates. The current moves to reclassify the toxicity of ethanol and concerns over unfair subsidy of biodiesel are typical of the ongoing input that the Group makes to developing the biofuels market. The technical expertise and strategic outlook of our members are central to our continued growth, and to our credibility and influence with Government.

### Scottish Contaminated Land

During the Remediation Licensing Task Force it became apparent that Scottish Legislation was likely to diverge significantly from that in England and Wales. EIC discussions with the Scottish Executive and SEPA revealed that Scotland was likely to adopt a licensing system for on-site remediation that could be entirely incompatible with the new Mobile Treatment Licence system South of the Border. It was decided there was a need for a specific Scottish Working Group that initially would focus on the brownfield redevelopment area, and would subsequently be expanded to cover other areas of interest to the EIC. The six monthly meetings are consolidated by our Autumn EIC Scotland Conference that has been a sell out for the first two years. This is being held again in September 2007. The Group meetings tend to focus on similar issues to the main Contaminated Land Working Group with key issues including the following:

**Soil Guideline Values** - as the introduction of revised Soil Guideline Values south of the border seems to be an interminable process, a sub group is looking into whether it may be possible to introduce a more pragmatic system north of the border, perhaps using a practical set of figures that may already be in use.

**Definition of Waste** - one area where there are significant differences in the viewpoint taken by SEPA compared to that south of the border, is in the re-use of soil following remediation. At present in Scotland a situation exists where guidance in the waste pages of the SEPA website runs contrary to advice given in the brownfield/contaminated land section. The Group is seeking to resolve this issue and to try and ensure that a pragmatic viewpoint is taken by SEPA in allowing remediated soils to leave the waste stream and be simply re-used onsite, following a risk assessment.

**Clean Up Levels in Groundwater** - another problematic issue for brownfield redeveloped in Scotland is that SEPA very often insist on drinking water standards being achieved in groundwater below a site, measured at the site boundary. This is a very onerous position to take and not helpful in Scotland where, particularly in our industrial areas, there is virtually no chance of groundwater ever being required as a drinking water resource. The Group are lobbying for a degree of significance being taken in to account. This should help to ensure that the delays associated with the negotiations required around this sticking point are reduced. At present this drinking water standards at the boundary viewpoint can make redevelopment opportunities untenable.

As per the Contaminated Land Working Group south of the border, the Scottish Working Group meetings are addressed by august individuals from SEPA and the Scottish Executive. It is our intention that the Scottish Group will continue to grow and the EIC will then be able to be put more resource in to lobbying the various Scottish and Environmental and Legislative organisations.