

EU biogas and biomethane inventory of regulatory framework



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Name of regulatory act	Commission Decision of 10 June 2010 on guidelines for the calculation of land carbon stocks for the purpose of Annex V to Directive 2009/28/E
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Date of Implementation	n.a.
Purpose	The guidelines for the calculation of land carbon stocks for the purpose of Annex V to Directive 2009/28/EC are set out in the Annex to this Decision.
Relevance for the biomethane sector	<p>(1) Directive 2009/28/EC lays down rules for calculating the greenhouse gas impact of biofuels, bioliquids and their fossil fuel comparators, which take into account emissions from carbon stock changes caused by land use change. Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC (2) includes corresponding rules as far as biofuels are concerned.</p> <p>(2) The Commission should draw its guidelines for the calculation of land carbon stocks on the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Those Guidelines were intended for national greenhouse gas inventories and are not expressed in a form that is readily applicable by economic operators. It is therefore appropriate, where IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories lack the necessary information for purposes of biofuel and bioliquid production or where such information is not accessible, to draw on other scientific sources of data.</p> <p>(3) For the calculation of the carbon stocks in soil organic matter it is appropriate to take into account climate, soil type, land cover, land management and input. For mineral soils, the IPCC Tier 1 methodology for soil organic carbon is an appropriate method to use for this purpose as it covers the global level. For organic soils, the IPCC methodology addresses in particular carbon loss following soil drainage and does this only through annual losses. As soil drainage normally results in high carbon stock loss that cannot be compensated by the greenhouse gas saving of biofuels or bioliquids and as drainage of peatland soil is prohibited by the sustainability criteria laid down by Directive 2009/28/EC, it suffices to lay down general rules for determining soil organic carbon or carbon losses in organic soils.</p> <p>(4) For the calculation of carbon stock in living biomass and dead organic matter a low complexity approach corresponding to IPCC Tier 1 methodology for vegetation should be an appropriate method. In accordance with that methodology it is reasonable to assume that all carbon stock in living biomass and dead organic matter is lost from the land upon conversion. Dead organic matter is usually of low significance in land conversion for the establishment of crops for the production of biofuels and bioliquids, but should be taken into account at least for closed forests.</p>
Scope	<p>These guidelines establish the rules for the calculation of land carbon stocks, both for the reference land use (CSR , as defined in point 7 of Annex V to Directive 2009/28/EC) and the actual land use (CSA , as defined in point 7 of Annex V to Directive 2009/28/EC).</p> <p>In point 2 rules are provided in order that land carbon stocks are consistently determined. Point 3 provides the general rule for the calculation of carbon stocks, which consist of two components: soil organic carbon and carbon stock in the above and below ground vegetation.</p> <p>Point 4 provides detailed rules for determining the soil organic carbon stock. For mineral soils it provides the option of following a method that allows the use of values provided for in the guidelines, while the option of using alternative methods is also provided for. For organic soils methods are described, but the guidelines do not contain values for determining soil organic carbon stock in organic soils.</p> <p>Point 5 provides detailed rules for carbon stock in vegetation, but is only relevant in the case the choice is made not to use values for above and below ground vegetation carbon stock provided in point 8 of the guidelines (the use of the values provided in point 8 is not obligatory and for certain cases it may not contain the appropriate values).</p> <p>Point 6 provides the rules to select the appropriate values in case the choice is made to use the guidelines' values related to soil organic carbon in mineral soils (these values are provided in points 6 and 7). In these rules reference is made to data layers on climate regions and soil type available through the online Transparency platform established by Directive 2009/28/EC. Those data layers are detailed layers underlying figures 1 and 2 below.</p> <p>Point 8 provides values for carbon stock in the above and below ground vegetation and related parameters. Points 7 and 8 provide values for four different land use categories: cropland, perennial crops, grassland and forest land.</p>
Targets	
Sustainability Criteria	(3) For the calculation of the carbon stocks in soil organic matter it is appropriate to take into account climate, soil type, land cover, land management and input. For mineral soils, the IPCC Tier 1 methodology for soil organic carbon is an appropriate method to use for this purpose as it covers the global level. For organic soils, the IPCC methodology addresses in particular carbon loss following soil drainage and does this only through annual losses. As soil drainage normally results in high carbon stock loss that cannot be compensated by the greenhouse gas saving of biofuels or bioliquids and as drainage of peatland soil is prohibited by the sustainability criteria laid down by Directive 2009/28/EC, it suffices to lay down general rules for determining soil organic carbon or carbon losses in organic soils.
Mass-balance	
Support Systems (subsidies, feed in tariffs, etc)	
Non-discriminatory access to the grid	
Transport sector	
Waste regulation	
Emission Regulation	<p>(1) Directive 2009/28/EC lays down rules for calculating the greenhouse gas impact of biofuels, bioliquids and their fossil fuel comparators, which take into account emissions from carbon stock changes caused by land use change. Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC (2) includes corresponding rules as far as biofuels are concerned. (6)</p> <p>Annex V to Directive 2009/28/EC sets out the method for calculating greenhouse gas impacts and contains rules for the calculation of annualised emissions of carbon stock changes from land use changes. The guidelines annexed to this Decision establish rules for the calculation of land carbon stocks, completing the rules laid down in the Annex V</p>