



Environment Team Workshop January 29-30, 2013

CAAFI Environment Team Workshop Sets Path Forward on GHG Life Cycle Analysis Methodology and Environmental Sustainability Tool Development

The CAAFI Environment Team held a very successful workshop in Washington, DC on January 29-30, 2013. The workshop included a series of overviews of current regulatory, voluntary and research activities regarding alternative jet fuel sustainability. The members also participated in detailed working discussions on two main team work areas, greenhouse gas life cycle analysis methods and issues, and environmental sustainability overview tools under development for CAAFI. The workshop was sponsored by Airlines for America (A4A), one of CAAFI's sponsors.

Meeting Highlights:

The first day began with briefings from key organizations involved in environmental assessment of alternative jet fuels. These included an overview from the CAAFI Executive Director on CAAFI activities, updates from EPA on the Renewable Fuel Standard and from A4A on the EU's Renewable Energy Directive, ICAO activities, as well as from The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, aireg, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Argonne National Laboratory. In addition, Futurepast and Life Cycle Associates provided participants with a preview of their work on environmental sustainability of alternative jet fuel.

The Environment team leaders then presented and led a detailed discussion of the draft CAAFI environmental sustainability guidance document, which provides an overview of environmental sustainability issues to the aviation alternative fuel stakeholder community, and an impact matrix identifying key areas in the supply chain with elevated risk of environmental impact.

The second day included an update on a sustainability framework for alternative jet fuels developed by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA-Energy), the U.S. government's principal fuel purchasing organization. There was also an Environment team presentation and discussion of a proposed "Environmental Progression" tool to parallel CAAFI's Fuel and Feedstock Readiness Level tools. The Environmental Progression is intended to identify when in the development of the fuel particular environmental analyses might be needed.

Outcomes:

The presentations engendered avid, productive discussion on the utility of the presented tools as well as the team's role going forward. The team identified the need to understand and

reconcile differences in the life cycle GHG emissions that result from evaluations that follow various voluntary accounting schemes and regulatory frameworks. The sustainability tools, particularly the Environmental Progression, were well received, although the group highlighted the importance of ensuring that appropriate context is provided with respect to the potential uses of the tools. The team recommended case studies using the tools to elicit further input and identify gaps or inconsistencies in the tools.

The team also identified a longer- term need to address social and economic sustainability as well as environmental sustainability, while at the same time affirming the role of the Environment team to focus on environmental sustainability.

Next Steps:

With regard to GHG life cycle analyses, the team will convene a small working group to identify technical differences among existing tools and accounting schemes, while continuing to work to broaden data and analysis availability.

With regard to environmental sustainability tools (the guidance document, impact matrix, and environmental progression), the team leads will incorporate comments from the meeting and redistribute for additional comment. The team will then work with member organizations to produce case studies that describe the use of the environmental progression and other tools in order to identify gaps in the tools such that we can further improve their utility. The team will also work with the business team to address economic aspects of sustainability.

Lastly, the team members agreed to provide the team leads with their top priority “barriers to entry” that the CAAFI environment team could help address, as this will help to direct future efforts.

CAAFI sponsors are the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, Airlines for America (A4A), Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA). Additional information on CAAFI can be found at our website: <http://www.caafi.org>.