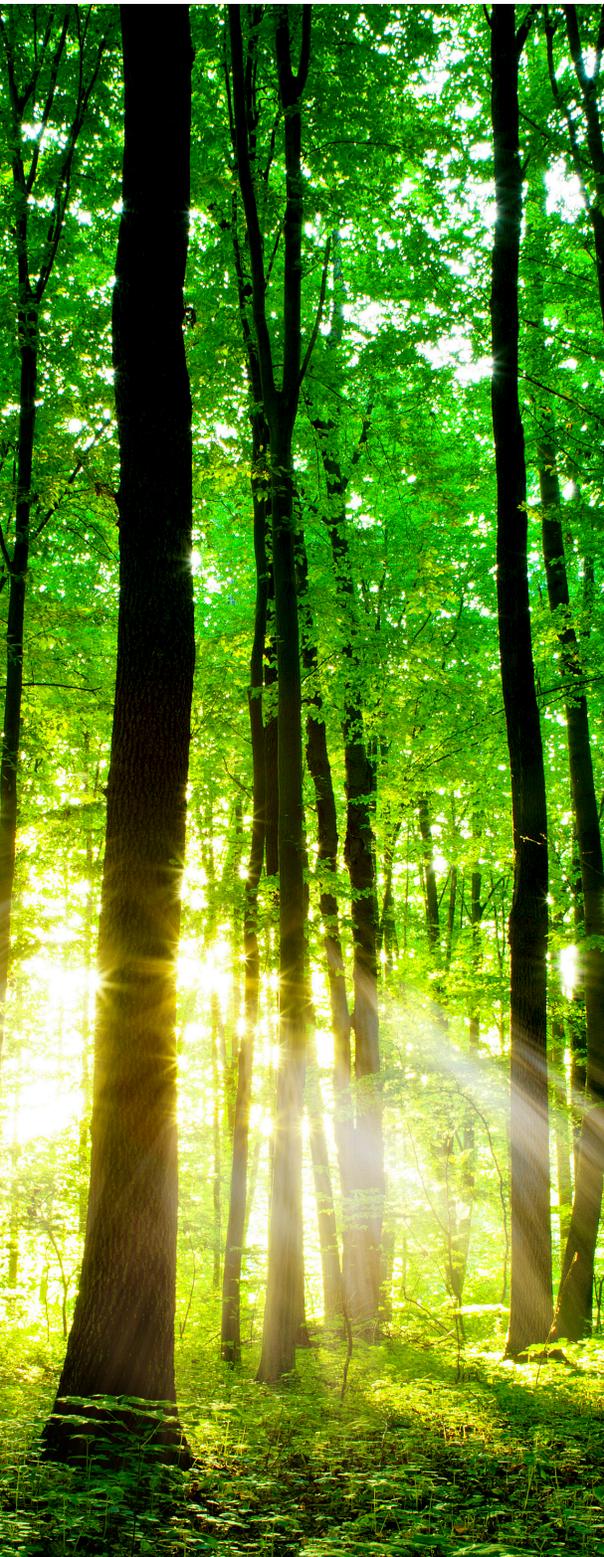


# Promoting Sustainable Sourcing Solutions



**SBP is part of a sustainable woody biomass supply chain that contributes to a low carbon economy.**



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## **Sustainably sourced biomass contributes to the green transformation of energy systems**

Countries across the globe are significantly reducing carbon emissions by replacing traditional fossil fuels with renewable, low-carbon sources of energy, such as wind, solar and biomass.

When sourced from sustainably-managed forests, woody biomass - often in the form of woodchips and wood pellets - is widely recognised as an environmentally-friendly alternative to coal and gas for electricity and heat production. Sustainable biomass helps many countries meet renewable energy goals and legal requirements.

## **Demonstrating sustainability through SBP Certification**

The Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) is a non-profit standard-setting organisation, which manages a voluntary certification system designed for woody biomass used in energy production. SBP was created to enable certified companies to demonstrate that they produce, trade or use woody biomass from sustainably-managed forests.

There is no global definition of sustainability. Therefore, like all other sustainability certification systems, SBP has developed its own set of 38 sustainability indicators which address forest-specific objectives, including:

- Maintaining or increasing forests;
- Conserving biodiversity; and
- Preserving forests of high conservation value.

Four independent audit companies are approved to certify to SBP. Currently, there are more than 130 SBP certified biomass producers, biomass traders and biomass end-users representing a substantial proportion of all industrial woody biomass used for energy in Europe.

## SBP becomes a multi-stakeholder organisation in 2019

Created in 2013, SBP was initially developed and governed by energy companies that have an interest in using woody biomass to replace coal and gas. As of 2019, SBP will transition into a multi-stakeholder led organisation, with a three-chamber board of directors and two expert advisory committees. The three chambers will consist of civil society representatives, biomass users and biomass producers.

This governance structure, which is also used by other leading sustainability certification systems, follows best practices and will further expand SBP recognition.

The multi-stakeholder model aligns with the principles and codes of the ISEAL Alliance, a recognised global membership association for sustainability standards. SBP plans to apply for ISEAL membership once the governance transition is complete.

## SBP's founding principles

SBP certification is founded on principles of legality, sustainability and independent auditing and verification. SBP certification system requirements include:

- Audit criteria that address sustainable forest management practices and the protection of environmental and social values;
- Written procedures on how SBP certified material is handled;
- An annual audit by approved independent auditing companies; and
- A means for stakeholders to engage, ensuring all views and comments are considered prior to a company's certification.

## Benefits of SBP

- Meets sustainability regulations for the use of woody biomass to generate energy
- Protects social and environmental values
- Is compatible with but does not replace FSC<sup>®</sup>, PEFC<sup>™</sup>, and SFI<sup>®</sup>
- Provides carbon data, from producer to end-user
- Replaces individual company verification systems
- Provides one universal approach
- Reduces international trade barriers

SBP builds on and recognises established and proven forest certifications, such as the Forest Stewardship Council<sup>®</sup> (FSC), the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification<sup>™</sup> (PEFC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>®</sup> (SFI). All companies certified to SBP are required to have a chain of custody certificate from either FSC, PEFC or SFI.



Contact us: Sustainable Biomass Program | <http://sbp-cert.org> | [info@sbp-cert.org](mailto:info@sbp-cert.org)