The Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative (SECCI) and the Structured and Corporate Finance Department (SCF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have created a Biofuels Sustainability Scorecard based on the sustainability criteria of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels. The primary objective of the Scorecard is to encourage higher levels of sustainability in biofuels projects by providing a tool to think through the range of complex issues associated with biofuels. Since the scientific debate around these complex issues continues to evolve, the Scorecard should be seen as a work-in-process and will continue to be updated and revised as needed. Comments can be submitted at the end of filling out the Scorecard.

Please see the following general guidance for completing the Scorecard prior to beginning to fill it out.

**Objective:** The primary objective of the Scorecard is to provide a tool for thinking through the complex issues associated with biofuels from the field to the tank, thereby encouraging higher levels of sustainability in such projects.

**Timeframe:** The Scorecard has been designed to be used at multiple stages of project lifecycle. The Scorecard can be used in project development, project screening, initial analysis, and then again throughout due diligence and investment approvals. By using the Scorecard at multiple stages, users can identify areas that can be improved and then measure the impact of changes in different areas. Additionally, when filling out the Scorecard for the first time, categories where information is not available are identified as areas to revisit during due diligence or at a later stage. Users can keep track of the multiple versions of the Scorecard over the lifecycle of the project through the use of the ‘date’ and ‘version’ fields at the beginning of the Scorecard.

**Instructions:** The Scorecard includes general, environmental, and social criteria. The Scorecard starts with general information and proceeds to more specific through the cultivation, production, and distribution stages of biofuels production, but it does not need to be filled out in any specific order.

The percentage boxes next to some of the categories are a tool to illustrate the complexity of many projects where there may be multiple answers for a given category. This will enable the user to choose the percentage of each answer in the total project. For example, for water requirements for cultivation, a project may rely on rain-fed water supply for part of the year and use efficient irrigation for the other part. Each category where a percentage option is offered will include the unit of measurement for calculating the appropriate percentage.

Given the complexity of biofuels lifecycle production, much of the information in each of the categories may be unknown or not apply to certain projects. Answering ‘Not available/Not applicable’ is not seen as a negative and can highlight areas for further investigation to revisit in due diligence or a later stage of the project development.

In categories where there are quantities, the user should round-up to the nearest whole number.
In cases where multiple feedstocks are used within a given project, a separate Scorecard should be filled out for each feedstock.

The user can save the results of the Scorecard in a PDF file on the user’s computer and then may email the results of the Scorecard to the IDB at scorecard@iadb.org.

**Users:** The Scorecard has been designed specifically for the private sector at the project level, but could be used more broadly as a thinking tool for which criteria need to be assessed in biofuels development. The Scorecard has been designed to be useful for project developers, including people at all stages of production; financial institutions; private investors; and environmental and social safeguard reviewers.

**Scope:** The Scorecard addresses environmental and social sustainability issues specific to biofuels projects. However, many other factors that are not in the scope of the Scorecard should be taken into account, notably the factors that are included in the IDB’s Environmental and Social Guidelines (hyperlink IDB policies), and the presence of national regulatory framework for biofuels. The assessment of a project’s economic sustainability is a fundamental component of any biofuel project. Among the main factors to be considered are the commitment of investors to inject ample equity, management track record, security of feedstock supply and offtake arrangements, adequacy of regulatory environment, and accessibility of infrastructure.

**Interpretation:** The Scorecard will not provide a final “score”, but rather generate a “color map” so that the user can see their performance across different areas and have a better idea of where there is room for improvement. The categories represent a mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators, since many of the categories cannot be quantified over a range of feedstocks and projects. The colors are meant to be interpreted as follows:

- **Bright Green:** Excellent – exceeds or meets best practice to minimize environmental and social harm, while providing maximum amount of sustainability benefits.
- **Light Green:** Good – exceeds average practices and reduces environmental and social harm, while providing a high level of sustainability benefits.
- **Yellow:** Satisfactory – meets average practices and does not present any major issue in isolation; may reduce environmental and social harm, while providing some sustainability benefits.
- **Orange:** Partially unsatisfactory – below average practices which present potential issues that may lead to environmental or social harm, and could prove to be unsustainable.
- **Red:** Unsatisfactory – unsustainable practices that present significant environmental and social risks and do not provide sustainability benefits. *Projects with any red should not be pursued.*

**Disclaimer:** NEITHER COMPLETION, SUBMISSION NOR ACCEPTANCE OF THIS SCORECARD IMPLIES THAT THE PROJECT IS ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCING BY THE IDB OR THAT FINANCING BY THE IDB WILL BE PROVIDED.

"The Scorecard is designed to be a living document, improving and evolving over time as additional comments and suggestions are incorporated into the text and format. Please submit comments here."

**Click here to begin the Scorecard**