

The Ethics of Biofuels

Public lecture and expert discussion on the Nuffield Council on Bioethics report on biofuels

12 December (Bonn) from 17-19:30 (in English)

13 December (Berlin) from 14-16:30 (in German)

Biofuels have become extremely controversial in recent years. They are promoted in many developed as well as developing countries as capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promote rural development and ensure energy security. However, these positive claims are highly contested, with specific concerns over the risk of growing food insecurity, land grabs, forest and biodiversity loss and other negative social and ecological effects being attributed to biofuels promotion policies.

Against this backdrop, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics – a renowned UK-based independent body that examines and reports on ethical issues in biology and medicine - has recently published a [report on biofuels](#). In this report the Nuffield Council establishes ethical criteria for biofuels development and proposes a framework to guide current and future policies for biofuel development.

These lecture and expert discussions in Berlin and Bonn organized by the research project “Fair Fuels?” (www.fair-fuels.de) will critically discuss the state of public support for biofuels in the transport sector against the framework outlined by the report. Dr. Alena Buyx, Co-Author of the report will present the main findings and arguments and engage in a panel and open discussion with policymakers, members of civil society, private sector and academia. Participants will discuss whether the ethical framework reflects the critical issues concerning biofuels for development as viewed by different stakeholders, and in how far such ethical principles are able to guide appropriate policies. Discussants will also debate whether current policy developments, including the development of biofuel certification schemes are effective in assuring positive socio-ecological and ethical effects of biofuel policies.

The lectures and expert rounds will be open to the public but especially aim to draw participants from governmental, research, civil society, and private sector who are familiar with the issues and can provide input during discussions.

To participate at the event in Bonn, please email biofuels@die-gdi.de. To participate in Berlin, please contact anna.neumann@ioew.de.

Fair Fuels?

Zwischen Sackgasse und Energiewende:
Eine sozial-ökologische Mehrebenenanalyse transnationaler Biokraftstoffpolitik

Programme Bonn (12 December 2011)

DIE, Tulpenfeld 6, Bonn

- 17:00** **Introductory Remarks**
Dr. Michael Brüntrup, DIE
- 17:15** **Ethical guidelines for biofuel development -
Guest lecture on the Nuffield Council Report**
Dr. Alena Buyx, Nuffield Council on Bioethics
- 18:00** **Panel debate and open discussion**
Dr. Alena Buyx, Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Heike Ostermann, GIZ (German International Cooperation Agency)
Carolin Callenius, Brot für die Welt
Elmar Baumann, Verband der Deutschen Biokraftstoffindustrie e.
V.
Kavitha Gotru, Indian Civil Accounts Service (currently DIE)
Norbert Schmitz, meó Consulting Team
Aaron Leopold, Institute for Latin American Studies (FU Berlin)
- 19:15** **Concluding remarks**
Dr. Michael Brüntrup, DIE

Programme Berlin (13 December 2011)

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Schumannstr. 8, Berlin

- 14:00** **Begrüßung**
Dr. Bernd Hirschl, IÖW
- 14:15** **Ethische Richtlinien für die Entwicklung von Biokraftstoffen -
Vortrag über den Bericht des Nuffield Council on Bioethics**
Dr. Alena Buyx, Nuffield Council on Bioethics
- 15:00** **Expertendiskussion**
Dr. Anita Breyer, BMU
Dr. Alena Buyx, Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Dr. Thomas Fatheuer, ehem. Leiter Brasilien-Büro der Heinrich-
Böll-Stiftung
László Maráz, Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung
Petra Sprick, OVID
Ralf Südhoff, UN World Food Programme
- 16:15** **Fazit und Schlusswort**
Dr. Bernd Hirschl, IÖW
- 16:30** **Kaffee und Kuchen**

The research project "Fair Fuels?" is funded through the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research's (BMBF) Social-Ecological Research (SÖF) program. For a successful realization of the project, the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) is cooperating with the Latin America Institute (LAI) at Freie Universität Berlin and the German Development Institute (DIE).

Fair Fuels?

Zwischen Sackgasse und Energiewende:
Eine sozial-ökologische Mehrebenenanalyse transnationaler Biokraftstoffpolitik