Sustainable Aviation Fuel Users Group (SAFUG) Global Recommendations

The below recommendations reflect commonly agreed positions by the members and affiliates of SAFUG—stakeholders which together account for approximately 25% of global aviation fuel use.

1. Create a strategic focus on sustainable fuels for aviation

SAFUG stakeholders urge decision makers to recognize the critical importance of catalyzing the development of safe, sustainable and commercially viable fuels for aviation. Renewable aviation fuels are being developed to address key issues with existing petroleum fuels, including greenhouse gas emissions and energy security. Unlike ground transport or electric generation, which have many alternative energy options with which to diversify, aviation will require liquid hydrocarbons for many decades to come. As a critical function in the global economy, the long term sustainability of aviation in a low carbon economy will be dependent on the development of sustainable fuels for aviation.

2. Adopt harmonized and robust sustainability standards

Aviation is a global industry with airplanes crossing borders each day, therefore more harmonized and consistent sustainability standards between and within regions will foster better practice within the biofuel sector and enable aviation use. SAFUG is a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) and as such commits to strong sustainability principles, including:

- Not displace or compete with food crops or cause deforestation
- Minimize impact to biodiversity
- Produce substantially lower life cycle emissions than fossil fuels
- Be sustainable with respect to land, water and energy use
- Deliver positive socioeconomic impact

Commercial scale sustainable aviation fuels employed by SAFUG members will meet sustainability standards consistent with and complementary to internationally-recognized standards such as those being developed by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuel. Policies can be crafted to align to these principles to achieve the desired result - reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other impacts - and provide solid measurement and data capability to withstand scrutiny.

3. Promote stable, long-term policy to attract investment

Supportive government policies are needed in order for an economically viable sustainable aviation fuels industry to develop. Well-integrated, consistent policies will help mitigate critical risks for feedstock growers/ producers and refiners when developing the economic basis for investment decision making.

4. Ensure that renewable fuel policies and programs support and incentivize sustainable fuels for aviation

It is vital that policy objectives provide consistent and equal incentive for all forms of sustainable fuel. Some current national or regional programs for ground transportation renewable fuels create a disincentive for aviation biofuels. Governments should prioritize aviation such that these existing, or future, programs appropriately incentivize aviation biofuels without creating market distortion. Aviation biofuels are at an early stage of development and require supporting government programs and policies to ensure their viability.

5. Provide targeted national, regional, and local backing for this industry sector

A major impediment in developing an economically competitive market for sustainable aviation fuels is the considerable investment required on both capital and technology. There are a variety of steps that all levels of government can take to support development of supply chains for sustainable aviation fuels. These include support for essential feedstock and conversion technology R&D, key infrastructure needed for advanced biofuel refineries, targeted job training, and pilot projects. Specifically, Government can foster this process via industry grants, funding research programs at key universities, co-investing with private capital in projects with commercial potential, becoming an end user of sustainable fuel and setting balanced and appropriate carbon price mechanisms to accelerate the development of an economically sustainable aviation fuels sector.