

SOIL Action Newsletter - European Soil Portal:

<http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu> **Volume 23 (November 2010)**

[SOER2010 \(State of Environment Report 2010\)](#)

The European environment – state and outlook 2010 (SOER) report was launched on the 30th November in Brussels. The 222-page report provides an overview of the state of, trends in and prospects for the environment in Europe. It includes 13 Europe-wide thematic assessments of key environmental themes which aim to help policy makers and citizens better understand, care for and improve Europe's environment. The thematic assessment on Soil was written by IES scientists in collaboration with the EEA and DG ENV. Soil assessment for the SOER is now available:



HTML: <http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/SOER2010/>

PDF : <http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/SOER2010/Docs/Soil.pdf>

[Background Guide for the Calculation of Land Carbon Stocks in the Biofuels Sustainability Scheme: Drawing on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories](#)

This Guide covers the calculation of carbon-stock changes in soil and above- and below-ground vegetation due to land use conversion in support of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, particularly for assessing carbon-stock changes due to land conversion for biofuel production. The methodology put forward is based on the Tier 1 approach as developed under the IPCC Guidelines 2006. It is based on specifying default values for carbon stocks and using coefficients of divergence from the default values according to land use/cover. The methodological approach of the IPCC was adapted for use with spatial layers instead of data tables. The spatial layers of the factors influencing carbon-stock changes were generated with global coverage and thematically aligned to comply with stipulations made in the Directive.



http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ESDB_Archive/eusoils_docs/other/EUR24573.pdf

[Biofuels: a New Methodology to Estimate GHG Emissions from Global Land Use Change](#)

This study provides a new methodology developed by the JRC IES and IE for estimating changes in soil carbon stocks and GHG emissions resulting from global land use changes caused by the production of biofuels. The methodology involves spatial allocation of agricultural land demand and estimation of CO₂ and N₂O emissions. A two-step approach has been applied: a) Creation of database (e.g. land use/crop cover/soil types etc.), combining different data sources into a single harmonised database; b) Simulation based on cropland demands from the general equilibrium model MIRAGE (run by IFPRI) and on cropland demand from the partial equilibrium model AGLINK-COSIMO.



http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ESDB_Archive/eusoils_docs/other/EUR24483.pdf

Newsletter Spotlight

[Biochar](#)

Biochar is char made from biomass, e.g. crop residues, green waste, wood chippings, chicken manure, etc. Biochar is listed here as a separate Soil project on account of its geo-engineering status and its cross-cutting nature, i.e. it is relevant to all the Soil Threats. The JRC plays two main roles in the biochar issue: a) independent and objective reviewer of relevant scientific evidence b) active communicator and facilitator in the international scientific discourse.



<http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/Biochar/>

[More Details](#)

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