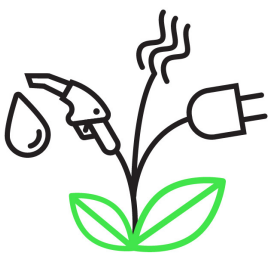
Mandate for Implementation Working Group on Renewable Fuels and Bioenergy



Adopted by the Steering Group on

6 March 2026

The IWG Renewable Fuels and Bioenergy is established by the SET Plan Steering Group (SG) to support the implementation of the SET Plan in this technology area. The scope of the working group is renewable gaseous and liquid fuels for transport and industry, including advanced biofuels, biomethane, synthetic e-fuels and other renewable fuels of non-biological origin, solid biomass fuels, bioenergy carriers, bioenergy for power generation and bioenergy for heating and cooling. The scope of the working group will also include biohydrogen production through biological / biochemical pathways and all downstream processes / technologies for conversion / synthesis of renewable fuels, as well as direct solar fuels production through thermochemical, photocatalytic or photobiological water splitting and all downstream processes / technologies for conversion/synthesis of renewable fuels. It works under the supervision of the SG to whom it reports regularly. To carry out its tasks, the IWG will benefit from the expertise, support and tools provided by the Commission (e.g. Joint Secretariats, CSAs), the SET Plan information system - SETIS, the Clean Energy Technology Observatory project, the Competitiveness Progress Report, workshops, events etc.).

The IWG oversees the development of a 'Common Implementation and Investment Plan' (CIIP). The CIIP consists of a 1) Thematic Vision (TV), a 2) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and 3) Implementation and Investment Commitments (IIC). The old Implementation Plans and SRIAs and other relevant documents (e.g., for direct solar fuels) may act as a source of inspiration and content for this exercise. In this context, the IWG shall:

1. Develop a **Thematic Vision for the technology area** of Renewable Fuels and Bioenergy for Transport and Industry, CHP, domestic heating and cooling and District Heating, establishing ambitious and achievable short-term (up to 2030), medium-term (up to 2040), and long-term (up to 2050) goals on the development, manufacturing and market uptake of this technology in Europe.

The IWG will develop this Vision in close collaboration with industry and research stakeholders such as ETIP Bioenergy, EERA Bioenergy, the forthcoming forum on Direct Solar Fuels, RHC-ETIP and other relevant stakeholders by May 15th of 2026. It shall be based on solid evidence and foresight, and outline short-, medium- and long-term goals. The goals may include corresponding targets where relevant, such as but not limited to: technological performance, maturity and progress to commercialisation; manufacturing capacity in Europe; intellectual property metrics; and emissions reductions.

The resulting Thematic Vision will be submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

2. Oversee the stakeholder community's development of a European **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** which aims to achieve the vision.

The IWG will entrust the development or update of a SRIA to industry and research stakeholders, represented by the ETIP Bioenergy, by 15th of October 2026 in coordination with the other relevant

stakeholder groups.[1] *The SRIA will be based on the ETIP Bioenergy SRIA from 2023 with some updates for technology and market utilising the work of the planned update of that SRIA which is scheduled for later in the support project to ETIP Bioenergy, as well as on inputs from EERA Bioenergy, RHC-ETIP and Direct Solar Fuels Forum. The SRIA shall identify the specific R&I priorities and activities, corresponding KPIs and the level of funding needed in Europe to achieve the Thematic Vision's goals. Where appropriate, the SRIA should also include recommendations on enabling framework conditions for manufacturing and market uptake (e.g., regulatory, fiscal, standardisation) that should accompany and help realise the Thematic Vision's goals. This process may benefit from the input of the CET Partnership, Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the European Energy Research Alliance, the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan (STIP) etc.*

The resulting SRIA shall be well-aligned with the Thematic Vision and submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

The IWG will also engage in relevant cross-sectorial thematic discussions across the SET Plan (e.g., on skills and energy system integration aspects) and cooperation with most relevant specific IWGs e.g., on hydrogen, industry, energy efficiency in buildings, energy integration, CCU, etc. while addressing or building on all synergies with other IWGs and avoid overlaps.

3. Identify and collect **Implementation and Investment Commitments (IICs)** based on national and EU priorities.

The IWG will organise and steer the discussion among all relevant actors (EC, MS, industry, research organisations, academia) on how to best implement the endorsed SRIA by Q1 2027. It will aim to build the broadest possible consensus on a common implementation approach (e.g., priorities, timing, resources) and will facilitate agreement on the allocation of efforts between public and private actors and identify their respective investment R&I commitments.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the **Common Implementation and Investment Plans (CIIP).**

The CIIP shall include a description of indicators for monitoring progress and identifying bottlenecks. This exercise will be based on the guidance devised by the Commission to ensure a level of comparability across the working groups. The IWG will then annually assess the progress made in the implementation of the CIIP by the different actors via the harmonised annual SETIS exercise. The Steering Group and the European Commission can identify potential gaps, lagging areas, and new/emerging issues in order to suggest a revision of the CIIP.

[1] In some rare cases, IWGs might not have corresponding ETIPs. In these specific situations, the IWG can involve other stakeholder organisations involved in the SET Plan (i.e., partnerships, industrial association, dedicated technical sub-group of the IWG) to act as an ETIP, until a formal ETIP is set up and endorsed by the Steering Group or another structure is formally tasked to act as such by the Steering Group.