



Biomass Research & Development
Technical Advisory Committee
2017 Approach

March 30, 2017

- Why does the Biomass R&D Initiative Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) exist?
- Who makes up the TAC?
- What does the TAC actually do?
- To whom are we directing our advice and recommendations?
- How do we go about evaluating, advising and making recommendations?
- What else do we need to be reminded of?

Why have a “TAC”?



- Because Congress said so, twice
- Congress thought it was important for:
 - The proper conduct of BRDI programs
 - Getting farther, faster, given resource constraints
 - Breaking open silos

What does the TAC actually do?



- Statutory requirements
- Evolving activities / focus
- Reports back to BRDI Board
 - Annual report, at end of calendar year
- Periodic interaction with agencies through RFIs

- TAC functions under FACA rules
- TAC meetings are public meetings
 - Meeting notices appear in the Federal Register
 - Opportunity for non-Committee attendees (general public, special interest, agencies, etc.)
- Subcommittee meetings are not public meetings
- Elevate public service and collective benefits over personal/private interests and objectives
- Role of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
- Role of the TAC support staff

Who makes up the TAC?



- **Diverse group:**
 - Perspective: academia, government, private industry, NGO (missing finance)
 - Objective: R&D, commercialization, policy
 - Interest/Expertise: biomass, conversion technologies, products, markets (upstream, midstream, downstream)
 - Stage/Phase: from early ideas to steady/growth stage
 - Regional Interests: diverse geographies
- **With commonalities:**
 - “Enlightened” about the potential benefits that can be realized with a robust and smart bioeconomy
 - Well seasoned in our respective fields, industries, perspectives
 - Willing to “donate” valuable time to the work of the TAC
- **All members are selected, vetted and appointed**

Who is our audience?



- Statutorily: DOE and USDA
 - Specifically, BRDI program leadership and staff
- Other federal agencies
 - Specifically, Biomass IWG and OpsCo
- Congress
 - Considering reauthorization and/or funding
- Administration
 - Particularly a new Administration

HOW do we conduct TAC business?



- Within FACA guidelines & requirements
- It's up to the Committee to determine
- Evolution over time
- Going forward

Why Are We Suggesting a Change?



- The Committee and its membership form an outstanding resource for the Biomass R&D Board, multiple Federal Agencies, Congress, and the Administration.
- We believe this can be a more focused, efficient, and productive way to use members' precious time.
- We believe the Committee can best help facilitate the transition and maintain momentum from past efforts by providing input and feedback regularly throughout the year, not just a year from now.
- Over the last couple years, Committee members have been advocating for the TAC to elevate its impact to have more real-time communications related to highly relevant priorities.
- We hope this may be a clear way to have an actionable plan we are working toward each quarterly meeting, rather than a synthesis of a year's worth of diverse discussion at the end of a year's time.

- Establish a strong foundational overview on the topic of choice and communicate the TAC's collective thoughts on the topic.
- The information we provide would be truly actionable in very short order with a clear role for the federal government to move the needle and shift momentum.

Quarterly Focus Topics



- Committee staff and leadership will use each Quarterly Focus Topic (QFT) to plan the Committee's quarterly meeting agenda.
- Committee staff and leadership will invite agency staff and outside experts to help the Committee collectively understand, frame, and discuss each QFT.
- During each quarterly Committee meeting, the Committee will break out into more focused sub-groups (e.g., Feedstocks, Conversion, Products/ Markets/ Systems) to discuss the QFT in more granular detail or from a particular perspective.
- Collectively, the Committee will develop a framework and key themes/ideas on each QFT for preparation and dissemination of a written brief on each QFT.
- A small sub-group of Committee members (3-5) will be selected to synthesize the Committee's discussion and draft a QFT Issue Brief, no more than 2 pages.
- The draft QFT Issue Brief will be distributed to all Committee members for review and comment.
- A final draft of the quarterly report will be distributed to all Committee members in advance of the next TAC quarterly meeting, where members will be asked to formally approve the report for delivery.

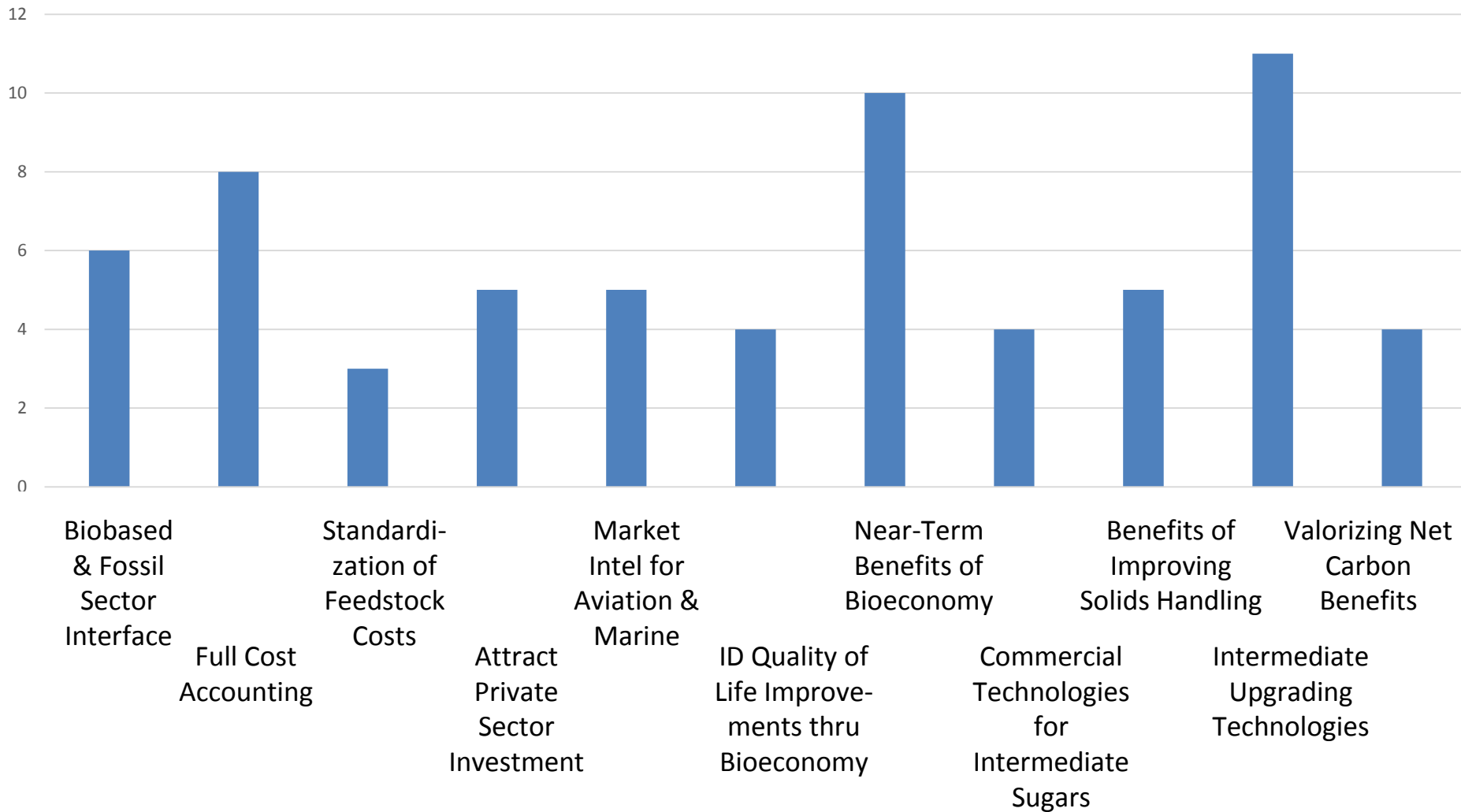
What Makes a Good QFT?



- The topic should be highly relevant for our stakeholders.
- The topic should be balanced in depth and scope
- The topic should lend itself to timely distillation into an external communication.
- Ideally, at least some of the QFTs should be actionable.

- Changing to a Quarterly approach from our past practice will require identification of more clearly defined topic areas.
- We have only 3-4 opportunities this year to communicate our advice.
- A list of potential QFTs was developed based on input from Committee members and leadership.
- Topics are NOT:
 - Rigid boundaries
 - Meant to limit or hinder open dialogue
- Topics ARE intended to:
 - Provide a framework for organizing the TAC efforts
 - Generate useful dialogue
 - Efficiently develop meaningful communications for our stakeholders

Survey Results



- The Biomass Board has begun an effort to develop the Bioeconomy Initiative Action Plan in follow-up to the FARB and the O&C.
- Agencies are developing goals, approaches, milestones, and timelines in response to resolving or mitigating the previous identified challenges in the O&C report.
- A significant starting point is the current state-of-the industry.
- The TAC is being asked to provide an assessment of the industry for the major components of the biomass supply chain: production, logistics, conversion, and use.
 - The timeline is within the next 6 weeks, so there is not an expectation of an in depth analysis, but more of personal perspectives and interpretations from the various sectors of the bioeconomy.

- Ultimately, a few bullet points summarizing this group's thoughts about the current state of the bioeconomy
- DOE staff will consider the input when developing 2 paragraphs for inclusion in the Action Plans being developed by the IWGs
- Examples (to illustrate level, detail, length)
 - Heavy reliance on conventional energy supply systems
 - Very little commercial scale production of energy crops
 - Woody biomass used mainly for power
 - Minimal private capital invested in commercialization
 - Biotech over-promised and under-delivered (within the time frame)