

## First Policy Brief is Released

The ESCIB project, has released a policy brief outlining key recommendations to enhance the environmental sustainability and circularity of industrial bio based systems (IBBS). These systems, which transform biomass into non-food, non-feed materials like bioplastics, biochemicals, and wood-based products, are critical to achieving the EU's

climate neutrality, resource efficiency, and pollution reduction goals under the European Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan.



The policy brief emphasizes that while IBBS often outperform fossil-based alternatives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fossil resource use, they can also lead to trade-offs in land use, water consumption, and pollution. To address these challenges, ESCIB has developed robust methodologies and tools to assess IBBS and guide investments toward systems that are truly sustainable and circular.

### Key Recommendations:

- **Promote the use of residues, by products, and biogenic wastes:** Support projects that utilize underused waste streams for higher value applications.
- **Focus on multi-impact environmental benefits:** Investments should target systems with proven benefits across multiple environmental categories, not just carbon reduction.
- **Encourage circular design:** Prioritize products designed for reuse, repair, recycling, and integration with waste management systems.
- **Standardize data and methods:** Develop harmonized life-cycle assessment tools and benchmarks to reduce uncertainty and enable consistent evaluations.
- **Align investments with EU environmental goals:** Ensure biomass sourcing and industrial growth respect ecological boundaries and sustainability principles.
- **Prioritize research:** Focus on emerging technologies and value chains with strong potential for sustainability and circularity.

The ESCIB project's findings aim to provide policymakers, funding bodies, and investors with actionable insights to support IBBS that align with EU climate and environmental objectives. The project will continue its research until 2027, with further results and benchmarks expected in the coming years.

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