

BIO Staff-Level Policy Committees



Joining a BIO committee is the best way to shape our domestic and international policies, participate in public outreach, and stay informed. Committee participation is open to all employees of BIO member companies. Members participate in committee calls to speak up about issues that are important to them, or simply network with peers.

How committees work

For innovative companies using cutting edge biological innovations to develop technologies and products for the agricultural, food, and industrial biotech sectors, BIO has established three application-centered workstreams designed to establish durable commercial marketplace success for these products through sophisticated regulatory and market access strategies. These workstreams are:

1. Biobased Manufacturing
2. Food and Farm Innovation
3. Sustainable Fuels

Within each workstream, BIO members will determine the goals and objectives and drive the strategies needed to speed the development and commercialization of their technologies and applications. In doing so, we will emphasize objectives where BIO can make a unique contribution and meaningful impact for our members – with a primary focus on how we can ensure favorable regulatory and market access systems for the new wave of agricultural, food, and industrial biotech innovations.

Committee members have

- Access to BIO staff experts with deep policy, regulatory, tax, investment, legal expertise, and connections to industry influencers and stakeholders;
- The ability to help shape BIO's domestic and international policy agenda; and
- Breaking news and timely newsletters on issues of importance to their companies.

Membership

Full-time employees of BIO member companies are eligible to join committees. There is no limit to the number of employees a member company can have on committees.

Operation

All committees operate on a consensus basis. If a consensus position cannot be reached among members on a policy issue, BIO cannot take a public position on that issue. While multiple employees may participate on a committee, each member company participates as one voice, or one vote, on policies and issues that come before each committee.

Meetings

Regular committee meetings typically occur via teleconference on a regular basis with occasional in-person meetings to discuss pertinent policy issues. Attendance is not mandatory.

Ready to join? Have questions?

Contact biomember@bio.org with questions or to request to join a committee.

Biobased Manufacturing (BBM) – This workstream will focus on technologies used in (non-food) industrial and environmental biotech applications, including renewable chemicals, enzymes, biobased products, processes, and alternative feedstocks.

Biobased Manufacturing Strategy Committee¹

The Biobased Manufacturing Strategy Committee is responsible for ensuring BIO executes a coordinated, future-looking, and pro-innovation strategy in support of (non-food) biobased products and processes. The Committee looks across regulatory, market access, government affairs, communications, industry, and corporate affairs issues of relevance to this sector – both domestically and internationally. It serves as the primary body to provide recommendations to the Board. The Committee may establish and dismantle working groups and task forces, as appropriate.

Policy Working Groups¹

Sector-specific policy development, such as the promotion of favorable regulation for renewable chemicals, new policy initiatives surrounding biobased manufacturing, or the establishment of strategies to promote the development of synthetic biology innovations, will take place in sector-specific working groups. They include:

BBM Regulatory Policy¹

This working group develops and advocates for new policies and initiatives that broadly support the development and deployment of the bio-based products industry at the federal and state level (excluding specific chemical regulatory and synthetic biology workstreams captured by the working groups described below).

BBM Market Access¹

This working group will focus on promoting demand for member products through broad stakeholder engagement and relevant policy development.

BBM Chemical Regulatory¹

This working group will focus on key chemical regulations impacting membership, such as the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

BBM Synthetic Biology¹

This working group will develop and implement strategies and policies to promote a favorable environment for the development of synthetic biology innovations applicable to this sector.

Tactical Working Groups

Successful execution of the policy strategies developed by the sector-specific policy working groups described above will require coordination with and support from the following tactical working groups:

BBM Communications¹

This working group covers all aspects of press and communications work dealing with renewable chemicals, biobased products, and processes.

BBM Federal Government Relations¹

This working group will advocate and achieve biobased manufacturing legislative priorities such as Farm Bill Energy Title program implementation, renewable chemical tax policy, and other low carbon legislative opportunities. Ensures policies enacted create a favorable environment for member company technologies and applications.

BBM State Government Relations¹

This working group will advocate and achieve biobased manufacturing policy priorities at the state and local level to drive investment and create a favorable environment for member company technologies and applications.

Food and Farm Innovation (FFI) - This workstream will focus on state-of-the-art products and technologies used throughout the food, farm, and animal feed supply chain, from agricultural inputs to ingredient applications to whole foods.

Food and Farm Innovation Strategy Committee¹

The Food and Farm Innovation Strategy Committee is responsible for ensuring BIO executes a coordinated, future-looking, and pro-innovation strategy in support of food and farm biology-based innovations. The Committee looks across regulatory, market access, government affairs, communications, industry and corporate affairs issues of relevance to this sector – both domestically and internationally. It serves as the primary body to provide recommendations to the Boards. The Committee may establish and dismantle working groups and task forces, as appropriate.

Policy Working Groups

Sector-specific policy development, such as the promotion of favorable regulation for fermentation-based food solutions or the establishment of an improved regulatory and marketplace success paradigm for biotech derived plants, animals, and microbes will take place in sector-specific working groups. They include:

FFI Microbial Solutions

This working group will promote favorable regulation of fermentation-based food solutions – from flavors, food ingredients and additives, to enzymes for food processing, proteins, and feed ingredients for animal nutrition, as well as other nutrition and wellness products derived from biotechnology.

FFI Animal Feed Task Force¹

This task force will focus specifically on regulatory opportunities and challenges within the animal feed sector.

FFI Plant Science & Regulatory¹

This working group will focus on establishing an improved regulatory paradigm for biotech-derived plants, including transgenic and gene edited. The team leads the development of science-based regulatory policy strategies to drive risk proportionate regulation for these applications for the betterment of industry and consumers.

FFI Animal Science & Regulatory¹

This working group will focus on establishing an improved regulatory paradigm for biotech-derived animals, including transgenic and gene edited. The team leads the development of science-based regulatory strategies to drive risk proportionate regulation for these applications for the betterment of industry and consumers.

FFI Market Access¹

This working group will focus on promoting demand for member products through broad stakeholder engagement and relevant policy development.

Tactical Working Groups

Successful execution of the policy strategies developed by the sector-specific policy working groups described above will require coordination with and support from the following tactical working groups:

FFI Communications¹

This working group covers all aspects of press and communications work dealing with Food and Farm Innovation.

FFI Federal Government Relations¹

This working group oversees FFI's legislative and executive branch activities on all issues related to biology-based food and farm innovations, including building and maintaining relationships with policymakers in Congress and the Administration.

FFI State Government Relations¹

This working group oversees state policy management activities on all issues related to biology-based food and farm innovations, including maintaining relationships with state and regional biotechnology and agribusiness organizations.

Sustainable Fuels (SF) - This workstream will focus on technologies that are revolutionizing the fuels sector, including conventional, advanced, and cellulosic biofuels, drop-in fuel replacements, sustainable aviation fuels, and other technologies such as enzymes, microbes, algae, renewable biomass, waste feedstocks, and captured carbon that aid in the development of sustainable fuels.

Sustainable Fuels Strategy Committee¹

The Sustainable Fuels Strategy Committee is responsible for ensuring BIO executes a coordinated, future-looking, and pro-innovation strategy in support of the fuels sector, including conventional, advanced, and cellulosic biofuels, drop-in fuel replacements, sustainable aviation fuels, and other technologies such as enzymes, microbes, algae, renewable biomass, waste feedstocks, and captured carbon that aid in the development of sustainable fuels. The Committee looks across regulatory, market access, government affairs, communications, industry, and corporate affairs issues of relevance to this sector – both domestically and internationally. It serves as the primary body to provide recommendations to the IES Board. The Committee may establish and dismantle working groups and task forces, as appropriate.

Policy Working Groups

Sector-specific policy development, such as the establishment of low carbon fuel standards, tax incentives, and research and development initiatives, will take place in sector-specific working groups. They include:

SF Regulatory Policy¹

This working group develops federal policies and initiatives to incentivize the production and consumption of sustainable fuels and addresses regulatory issues impacting the sustainable fuels industry.

SF Market Access¹

This working group will focus on promoting demand for member products through broad stakeholder engagement and relevant policy development.

Tactical Working Groups

Successful execution of the policy strategies developed by the sector-specific policy working groups described above will require coordination with and support from the following tactical working groups:

SF Communications¹

This working group covers all aspects of press and communications work dealing with sustainable fuels.

SF Federal Government Relations¹

Advocate and achieve sustainable fuels policy priorities to address climate change, air pollution, rural development, and energy security through existing policies like the Renewable Fuel Standard and the exploration of future policy options.

SF State Government Relations¹

In conjunction with the Low Carbon Fuels Coalition, this working group supports and executes policy initiatives to promote low carbon fuel standards in different geographies. Provides a coordinate approach to each region to develop and grow the market for advanced and cellulosic biofuels.

Additional Committee Opportunities

In addition to Committees and Working Groups within the Agriculture and Environment workstreams, there are several other committees that member companies are encouraged to join.

Communications

IAMBIO Branding Committee¹

Play an active role in BIO's first-ever branding campaign, IAMBIO. Members of this committee serve as liaisons to their companies to collect video testimonials highlighting the value of biotechnology and the scientists, researchers, and staff that make innovation possible.

Innovature (Genome Editing) Communications Working Group³

The Innovature Communications Working Group provides member-driven strategic guidance to BIO and allied partners on executing the work under the communications pillar of the Innovature initiative. The aim of Innovature is to raise awareness and drive consumer acceptance of innovation in food and agriculture, with the current focus on the benefits of gene editing technology. The Communications Working Group is open to the designated company representatives within BIO's Food and Agriculture Section and BIO's Industrial & Environmental Section, plus members of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and other associations, as appropriate.

Finance & Tax

Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS) Working Group³

BIO maintains a staff-level working group to share updates and guide advocacy on the implementation of reforms to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS), which has the authority to review, and potentially alter, foreign investments into the U.S. biotechnology industry. The working group is convened through conference calls on an ad-hoc basis to discuss recent developments in the rulemaking process, exchange insights on the potential impact on the biotechnology industry, and direct BIO's advocacy efforts to shape the rulemaking outcome through comment letters and engagement with the Departments of Commerce and Treasury, as well as Congress. The overarching goal of this working group is to engage in the rulemaking process to avoid an undue impact on the biotechnology sector's ability to enter into global research partnerships as well as attract foreign investments. Working group participants come from a range

of backgrounds, principally from C-suite and finance functions, as well as technologists that understand the use and potential applications of emerging biotechnologies.

Finance & Tax Committee³

Concentrates on tax, financial services, securities, and accounting policies that impact member companies and biotech capital formation. This committee advises BIO staff about the impact of legislation and regulations affecting these policy matters and supports BIO's engagement with Treasury, the SEC, and the IRS, as well as Congress and the Administration. Specific financial services areas of interest include the JOBS Act, Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) Section 404(b), proxy advisory firms, short selling transparency, market structure reform, tick size, accounting and auditing standards, and SEC life science reporting topics. Tax policy emphases include the Orphan Drug Tax Credit, the R&D credit and payroll R&D credit, federal tax treatment of net operating losses (NOLs), qualified small business stock (QSBS) capital gains treatment, and international tax.

International

Agriculture and Environment International Steering Committee

The staff-level committee oversees international and trade strategies and tactics to advance BIO's goals and objectives across the food and farm innovation, bio-based manufacturing, and sustainable fuels workstreams. The scope of work for this committee and any working group or task force established under its purview includes a focus on supporting the U.S. government and coordinating with like-minded governments on biotechnology issues in trade negotiations, global economic fora and multilateral organizations. Further, the committee supports pro-innovation advocacy within multi-lateral organizations such as the WTO and UN system to advance advocacy related to biotechnology and sustainable development. This committee includes various task forces centered on specific countries or regions in which BIO members may have specific interest and can join.

Legal

General Counsels Committee¹

Provides a forum for the General Counsels from BIO member-companies to build collegial relationships and exchange information, experiences, and best practices relating to a wide variety of legal and law department issues. Among others, these may include the development and organization of General Counsel offices, corporate governance, securities, antitrust, supervision of outside counsel, and other practice management activities. Participation is open to in-house counsel of member companies.

Intellectual Property Counsels Committee¹

Promotes strong, predictable intellectual property (IP) protection and efficient transfer of IP rights for the biotechnology industry domestically and internationally. This committee is open to in-house patent counsels of BIO member companies. Law firm patent counsels may join only at the designation of a BIO member company. The committee is responsible for developing domestic and international intellectual property policy that benefits the biotechnology industry. The committee reviews and comments on proposed intellectual property legislation and IP-related regulations from federal agencies. The committee will from time to time approve the filing of amicus briefs in cases that impact the biotechnology industry and develop IP-related position papers, white papers and educational materials. Participation is open to in-house IP counsel of member companies. Focus areas: Amicus, Patent Reform, PTO, and International IP.

Security Committee¹

Shares information relating to security threats and best practices among security officers of BIO member companies. When appropriate, the committee also oversees and monitors security activities relating to BIO events.

Technology Transfer Committee^{1, 2}

The Technology Transfer Committee promotes and facilitates industry/academic research partnerships for the biotechnology community. Committee members include persons directly involved in industry and academia partnerships such as university technology transfer officers, company licensing officers, business development officers, and others. Committee members work to improve business development tools for the industry/university tech transfer community, support BIO's industry intelligence and economic impact analysis of translational research, academic/industry sponsored research best practices, and respond to various state, federal and international legislative matters of vital interest to biotechnology technology transfer partnerships.

Member Services

BIO Business Solutions Advisory Board⁴

Provides strategic direction to BIO's cost-savings program, BIO Business Solutions. Helps in identifying and developing programs and offerings that deliver value to members. Composed of senior executives whose current role and/or industry experience is in finance, sourcing, operations and other related business functions within their respective companies. Participation requires board chair approval. BIO Business Solutions® Advisory Board meets in person annually and has quarterly conference calls.

Meetings

BIO IMPACT Advisory Committee⁴

BIO IMPACT is the flagship event for companies working in the agriculture and environment biotech space. This committee provides guidance to BIO on event strategy and helps guide the development of a program that showcases a broad range of topics and technologies, reflecting emerging trends and issues. The Committee also plays an integral role in attracting new stakeholders to participate in BIO IMPACT.

Note

For all three Ag & Environment workstreams, policy and tactical working groups may operate independently or as part of larger working groups addressing relevant issues on a broader level across the agriculture and environmental workstreams, depending on the goal to be achieved. For example, a BIO climate change policy initiative would require broad-based input.

Eligibility requirements:

¹ *Participation is limited to a full-time employee of, or in the discretion of BIO an authorized consultant to, R&D intensive ("core") member companies. BIO requires written notice from the R&D intensive member company that the consultant is authorized to act as an official company representative. Further, the consultant must sign a BIO confidentiality agreement indicating that he/she will not share any information learned or obtained through participation on the committee with any client other than the BIO member company which authorized his/her participation on its behalf. A consultant generally may not represent more than one BIO member company on any single committee, and any requests for information or for BIO to take or modify any policy position shall come directly from the authorizing BIO member company rather than the consultant.*

² *Participation is open to full-time employees of R&D intensive ("core") member companies and universities only.*

³ *Participation is open to a full-time employee or representative of all BIO member organizations.*

⁴ *Participation is by invitation only.*

NOTE: *Each individual committee also may have additional requirements not listed above. Eligibilities are subject to change.*