

Sustainability evaluation tools as governance instruments in the bioeconomy

Roland Essel

Sustainability Department, nova-Institut GmbH, Hürth, Germany

Contact: roland.essel@nova-institut.de

The bioeconomy is promising to introduce new chemicals, building-blocks and polymers with new functionalities and to develop new process technologies such as industrial biotechnology. It is supposed to help mitigating climate change through the substitution of petrochemicals by materials with lower GHG emissions. It could bring new business opportunities, investment and employment to rural areas and foster regional development. And finally, the whole utilisation of biomass could be optimised by new biorefinery concepts. But how do we assess the sustainability of the bioeconomy? This question will be addressed by presenting new evaluation tools as governance instruments.