

## PRESS RELEASE

### New REDcert land register is online!

**Bonn, 06.03.2019** Since the implementation of the European Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC in 2010, detailed sustainability requirements have applied to producers of biomass used for the production of biofuels. Only those producers who verify compliance with these requirements in writing to their customers using the “self-declaration” form for each harvest year can sell their biomass as sustainable within the meaning of the Directive.

One essential requirement is proof that the land where the biomass in question was farmed already had the status “cropland” on the **reference date of 1 January 2008** . If it is not possible to provide this proof, the biomass produced may not be sold as “sustainable”.

In practice, the land registers created for each farm as part of the direct payment scheme are normally used to provide this proof. The legal retention period for documents used in the direct payment scheme is only 10 years. Securely archiving documents beyond this legal retention period is becoming more and more complex in the context of sustainability certification.

With the development of the “**REDcert land register**”, REDcert offers all farmers the opportunity to keep their land records secure on a permanent basis. After registration, users can enter the plot number, plot directory, plot name, main or partial areas, etc. and archive them.

The use of the land register is voluntary and free of charge.

The REDcert land register is now available (in German only) at <https://www.flaechendaten.de> or on the REDcert website ([www.redcert.org](http://www.redcert.org)).

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