

BIO Staff-Level Committees



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

How committees work

BIO established sophisticated, results-driven committees for companies using cutting-edge, biological innovations to develop technologies and products for agriculture, food systems, energy, and biobased manufacturing. Agriculture & Environment Section (AES) committees function to build efficiency and cross-functional service for all members, with a strong focus on ensuring predictable and science-based regulatory systems, inclusive market access strategies, and relevant positioning in policy and advocacy debates.

Committee members have:

- Access to BIO staff experts with deep policy, regulatory, external affairs, tax, investment, communications, and legal expertise, and connections to industry influencers and stakeholders.
- Ability to help shape BIO's domestic and international policy agenda.
- Timely updates and 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, 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 recurring basis with occasional in-person meetings, as needed or appropriate. Attendance is not mandatory.

Have questions? Ready to join?

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

Not yet a member? Please contact info@bio.org to join today.

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Agriculture & Environment Staff-Level Committees

These committees focus on developing and advancing policies, market acceptance, and demand for biotechnology related products and/or processes for agriculture, food systems, energy, and biobased manufacturing. Market access efforts focus on broad stakeholder engagement and relevant policy development related to transparency and growing trust in the innovation ecosystem.

Working groups are responsible for sector-specific development including promotion of favorable regulations, market access and stakeholder engagement strategies, and positioning in climate, sustainability and bioeconomy policy debates.

Agricultural Biologicals Committee¹

This committee promotes favorable regulation of biological-based food and agriculture solutions, like flavors, food ingredients and additives, enzymes for food processing, proteins, small molecules and microbes for crop inputs, and feed ingredients for animal nutrition.

Biobased Manufacturing Committee¹

This committee promotes favorable regulation of industrial biotechnology solutions that promote the circular economy via lower energy inputs, reducing GHG emissions and are less polluting. Focusing on methods and engineering that advances the role of biotechnology processes from chemical products, biomaterials to bio-based manufacturing. This 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.

Plant Committee¹

This committee focuses 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 U.S. agriculture, industry and consumers.

Animal Committee¹

This committee focuses 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 U.S. agriculture, industry and consumers.

Agriculture & Environment Federal Government Relations¹

This committee oversees legislative and executive branch activities on all issues related to the agriculture & environmental sectors, including building and maintaining relationships with policymakers in Congress and the Administration.

Agriculture & Environment State Government Relations¹

This committee oversees state policy management activities on all issues related to biobased products and food and farm innovations, and low carbon fuel standards including maintaining relationships with state and regional biotechnology and agribusiness organizations.

Agriculture & Environment Law Committee¹

This committee provides a forum for the General Counsels from BIO's Agriculture & Environment member-companies to exchange information regarding litigations and other legal issues. Participation is open to a member-company's General Counsel or Chief Legal Officer.

Agriculture & Environment Communications¹

This group collaborates on agriculture and environment biotechnology messaging and communication goals and serves as a sounding board and advisory group for BIO's communication plans and projects. This group helps keep member company communicators up to date on BIO's communication work within the Agriculture & Environment section.

Agriculture International Committee

The AIWG's objective is to identify the most important international policy priorities of our agriculture members, develop appropriate advocacy strategies, and execute activities related to those strategies and priorities.

Climate Policy Committee¹

This group is working to ensure biotechnology is favorably positioned globally to meet the health, nutritional, and environmental expectations of society by defining the building blocks and policy drivers around carbon and sustainability.

AES Non-Committee Members (General Communications)¹

This group is for agriculture and environment members that are not on any of the other working groups but still wish to receive general email updates from the team. This group does not meet.

AES Check-In Committee¹

This group meets three times a year between Board meetings to receive high-level updates from the Agriculture and Environment team. CEOs of agriculture and environment section member companies are automatically added to this list but are welcome to delegate as needed.

Additional Committee Opportunities

In addition to committees and working groups within Agriculture & Environment, BIO members are encouraged to join other cross-cutting committees.

Communications

Communications Working Group¹

Helps to direct BIO's Communications Department on the design, implementation and evaluation of public relations, media outreach and consumer awareness efforts under the direction of the Board Standing Committee on Public Awareness. The committee includes senior executives from BIO member companies responsible for public relations, investor relations, public policy, marketing and media relations within their respective companies.

Finance

Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS)⁴

The committee shares updates and guides 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 committee 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 committee 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. Committee 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.

BIO Early-Stage Advisory Council⁴

The BIO Early-Stage Advisory Council is comprised of early-stage member company CEO's and provides the opportunity for participants to engage BIO staff and provide valuable input on BIO projects and policy proposals. The Advisory Council engages on projects addressing capital formation and funding issues broadly up through the point of IPO for a typical biotech. Examples of the type of projects Advisory Council members may be asked to provide input on include, but are not limited to, the following: Prioritizing subjects and developing content for future webinars and educational Events; Identifying issues that may have legislative or regulatory fixes and providing feedback on the development of policy proposals to address them; Serving as resource for surveys and data collection targeted at early-stage companies.

BIO Investor Advisory Committee³

The Investor Advisory Committee is comprised of investors that represent the spectrum of funding dollars BIO members interact with throughout their product lifecycle and corporate development. Members of the committee represent major biotechnology venture capital investors across therapeutics and ag-bio as well as public market investors. The Committee opines on certain BIO policy priorities to lend their expertise on how legislation and regulation will impact their investment decisions in the ecosystem.

International Affairs

International Advocacy Steering Committee¹

Oversees the development of international advocacy strategy and goals, for approval by International Affairs Committee of the Board. Determines priority countries and issues, including biologics regulations, intellectual property rights and market access issues in markets outside of the U.S. Implements the strategy through direct advocacy with foreign governments, U.S. trade and foreign policy officials, and other global stakeholders.

Task Forces:

- China
- Japan
- AES-Int'l Mexico

International Regulatory Committee¹

The International Regulatory Committee works with the Regulatory Affairs Steering Committee to set policy and priorities relating to global regulations of biotechnology products including biotherapeutics and advanced therapies such as cell and gene therapies. The group has a special focus on harmonization of key regulations in priority markets through the International Council on Harmonization (ICH), the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the World Health Organization.

Legal & Intellectual Property

BIO General Counsels Steering 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 the General Counsel or Chief Legal Officer, with a limit of one committee member per company.

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.

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.

Note

All Agriculture & Environment committees may operate independently or as part of a larger group addressing relevant issues on a broader level across the agriculture and environmental sector, 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.