# Frequently Asked Questions about the Biomass Scenario Model

**What is the Biomass Scenario Model (BSM)?**
The BSM is a tool for exploring scenarios for the development of the biomass-to-biofuels industry in the United States. The publicly released version of the BSM is called BSM-public.

**Will NREL continue to update the BSM-public?**
NREL plans annual public release of an updated version of the BSM-public.

**How is the BSM licensed?**

The BSM-public is licensed through a BSD license. Please see [http://github.com/NREL/bsm-public](http://github.com/NREL/bsm-public) for details on licensing and attribution.

**Is there a simpler way to access BSM functionality?**
A BSM Scenario Results Library is available ( [https://bsm-viewer.nrel.gov/](https://bsm-viewer.nrel.gov/)), and offers a web-based browser of results from published analyses. A BSM-public user interface is under development. It will allow the user to change selected parameters, view results, and export results, without in-depth knowledge of the model or its software.

**What do I need to run the BSM?**

The BSM is developed in the STELLA software **(**[https://www.iseesystems.com/](https://www.iseesystems.com/)

**How can I change the inputs?**
You can directly change inputs in the model. Alternatively, you can copy the default input sheet, modify it, import it, run the model, and view the results. This provides a clear record of your input changes.

**How can I modify the model?**
Some modifications are simple, while others are not. Case study examples of user modifications may be found at [https://github.com/NREL/bsm-public/tests/cases](https://github.com/NREL/bsm-public/tests/cases). Please note that input sheets may need to be modified to match new model structure, and any new variables that you define would need to be added to the input sheet. Please contact us at [bsm@nrel.gov](mailto:bsm@nrel.gov) for further assistance.

**How can I contribute to the model?**
The BSM-public GitHub repository (https://github.com/NREL/bsm-public) is read-only. If you would like to propose modifications for inclusion in the next public release, please contact us at [bsm@nrel.gov](mailto:bsm@nrel.gov).

**How can I find the references for model assumptions?**
The searchable definitions file ([http://github.com/NREL/bsm-public/guidance](http://github.com/NREL/bsm-public/guidance)) contains sources for key model assumptions, which also appear in the documentation fields within the model. A report also provides some additional documentation for an earlier model version: Biomass Scenario Model Documentation: Data and References ([http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57831.pdf](http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57831.pdf)).

**How can I learn more about the BSM?**
Please review the user guidance and other documentation on the GitHub site ([https://github.com/NREL/bsm-public](https://github.com/NREL/bsm-public)), or see the BSM website ([http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/bsm](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/bsm)) for other information, including publications.

**Where can I download the BSM-public?**
When you download the BSM GitHub repository ([https://github.com/NREL/bsm-public](https://github.com/NREL/bsm-public)), the "models" folder contains the BSM.

**How can I request more assistance?**
Please submit an issue ticket on the GitHub site or email us at [bsm@nrel.gov](mailto:bsm@nrel.gov).