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The Buzz About Bio Ethanol

By Simon Oldmann

Who Makes Bio Ethanol?

At this time, there are twelve countries that use and produce bio ethanol, promoting better fuel usage with less harmful additives that could hurt the environment. Many countries and manufacturers are learning about all the benefits bio ethanol including reducing greenhouse gas emission, carbon monoxide, and the costs of importing fuel from other countries, allowing them to create and manufacture their own gases, saving money.

The countries currently manufacturing bio ethanol include The United States, France, Brazil, The Philippines, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, South Africa, Argentina, Sudan, Thailand, and Kenya. Several companies are responsible for manufacturing bio ethanol, such as Sudzucker Bioethanol GmbH in Europe, VeraSun Energy, and Aventine Renewable Energy Inc.

The Future of Ethanol

In the United States, there are ninety plants operating and manufacturing ethanol. Annually, these companies produce nearly four hundred thousand million gallons of the fuel. At this time, the United States is looking an increase of eighteen more ethanol plants, which will add a further one hundred thousand, million gallons to the total production each year. When it comes to the numbers, the greatest production of ethanol occurs within the Midwest including Illinois and Iowa.

Even with the increase in bio ethanol uses, the United States sees steady increase of ethanol productions yearly. Ethanol prices have been on the rise over the last few years with consumers paying upwards of \$3.00 or more per gallon of ethanol fuel. Within the last few months, the ethanol prices have begun to gradually decrease, but as we all know, the more dependant upon other countries for our supply of oil, the greater the fluctuation of ethanol prices.

With that being said, ethanol prices also depend upon how much gasoline is combined with the ethanol. The ethanol prices are generally higher than other types of fuel, because of the oil price. Furthermore, ethanol tends to give the car more miles to the gallon than other types of fuel.

The Buzz About Bio Ethanol

Bio ethanol is create from corn and is much more efficient when it comes to our environment and the future of our world. When using natural products, when a spill occurs, less harm is done to the water, soil, and grass than with other types of fuel. Bio Ethanol prices, are also generally more expensive then regular fuel as well, perhaps by two to three cents..

There are arguments on both sides of the coin, as to which type of fuel you should be using, what either can do for the environment, to the environment, or to our vehicles. The key is that you should be conducting your own research learning the benefits and the drawbacks of using different fuels.

Simon Oldmann is an avid writer and a green activist, he has been writing about Ethanol use since the growing popularity of Ethanol these last years, Simon writes for

<http://ethanol.zupatips.com/>

at

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What Is Ethanol

By Simon Oldmann

The use of ethanol as an alternative fuel is becoming increasingly popular by ever conscious consumers wishing to do their little bit for the planet. It may even be a better alternative to bio fuel, it seems that it is a lot more pleasant to make at any rate.

What is Ethanol?

Ethanol is a grain alcohol, or plant mass formula derived from the natural sugars found in bio mass, or vegetation such as corn, wheat, barley, potatoes and sugar cane. This is then processed to make a renewable form of fuel or fuel additive, which is both cost effective and good for the planet. Many cars are able to run on Ethanol and gasoline mixtures. Although at the moment, the mixtures are only a ratio of 10% Ethanol, to 90% fossil fuel.

Benefits of Ethanol

There are many benefits of using an alternative fuel such as Ethanol, for starters it is a renewable resource, fossil fuels used to make gasoline is not renewable, so one day they will run out, it is because of this that people, have become more aware of alternative fuels and additives. Another good reason for using an alternative fuel such as Ethanol is the reduction of pollution, we only have one planet and if we keep polluting it we may very well find ourselves with nowhere to live. Any steps that we can make toward reducing pollution is a positive. Another good reason to consider a fuel alternative such as Ethanol is that it is far more cheaper to use and make, the main cost involved in making Ethanol is in the processing method.

The Buzz About Bio Ethanol

How is Ethanol Produced?

The process used consists of 8 stages, corn is the main product used in this method, Milling the corn, to make it into a fine powder, or meal Liquification, which is mixing the meal with water and Alpha-amylase, then heating it at temperatures of 120–150 deg Celcius, the heat reduces bacteria. Saccharification, is the process of cooling the mash, and adding glucoamylase, this converts the starch to dextrose, Fermentation, is where the yeast is added to ferment the sugars to convert it to Ethanol. This process consists of the mash going through several different tanks, and takes about 48 hours.

Please note that this procedure is risky and I do not recommend making biodiesel without further research of the process, these are just general guidelines of the making process, if you wish to actually make your own bio diesel please consult expert companies or professionals.

Distillation, the mash now contains about 10% alcohol and 90% non fermentable solids, the solids are now separated from the alcohol, to reach about a 96% strength of alcohol.

Dehydration, is where the last of the water is removed to make the alcohol about 200 proof.

Denaturing, is used then to make the alcohol unfit for human consumption, this is done by adding a small amount of gasoline, like 2–5%.

There are 2 co products derived from this process as well. The first is the non fermentable product, this is used as a livestock feed, the second is the carbon dioxide which is collected from the process and sold to other industries.

There are many reasons to use Ethanol as either an additive or an alternative fuel; one of the main reasons is the reduction of pollution. Regular fossil based fuels are not only damaging to the environment they are a non-renewable resources; once they are gone they can never be replaced, or regenerated.

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