

Federal legislation, regulation, litigation. Scholarships and Competitions. Plus Educational Resources. Recent Original Writings. And Advanced Biofuels USA activities.

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Advanced Biofuels USA, a nonprofit educational organization, advocates for the adoption of advanced biofuels as an energy security, economic development, military flexibility and climate change solution.



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Snowdrops, Harbinger of Spring. Nestled in decaying leaves, new life.

Reminder - Advanced Biofuels USA Split Newsletter into Two Parts: *Conference*

Calendar, which is sent separately; and **Policy, Legislation, Regulations and Happenings**—this one. All can be found archived on our [NEWS page](#).

Happenings on Capitol Hill, at the White House and in Federal Agencies

New Tags: [2016 US Presidential Campaign](#) and [2016 US House and Senate Campaigns](#)

**ELECTION
2016**

During the Presidential and Congressional campaign season, Advanced Biofuels USA is following comments by candidates to help **you** make sustainable renewable transportation fuels part of the 2016 campaign conversation.

Click on these tags to keep in touch with the latest: [2016 US Presidential Campaign](#) and [2016 US House and Senate Campaigns](#). To

find tags on [our website](#), just scroll down to the bottom of the right margin.

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



We follow proposed and actual federal legislation. Here are some key stories. For more legislative news, [click here](#).

We also follow [policy developments](#) in the US, other countries and states. For more information on those topics, click on the name of the country or state that appears along the right margin of our website at www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org.

[Biofuels Rep Defends RFS](#)

March 8, 2016 – 5:52 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Environmental Compliance News) ... Americans should not misunderstand the current state of domestic production, foreign production, international economics, and low prices, according to Brooke Coleman, executive director of the Advanced Biofuels Business Council.

“Oil dependence is ...

[API’s Understatement of RFS Belies Attempts to Weaken Influential Program](#)

March 8, 2016 – 11:31 am | [No Comment](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) In an interview with POLITICO Pro Energy’s Morning Energy, American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard stipulated that his organization was pivoting its strategy toward reforming the Renewable Fuel Standard rather ...

[A Conversation with US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack](#)

March 8, 2016 – 10:49 am | [No Comment](#)

(Industrial Biotechnology) ... My current assessment is that there exists an unlimited sense of opportunity in the biobased products and bioenergy sector. I look at the work being done at the

USDA, which is extensive and ...

[Politico Morning Energy: Gerard: API Huddling to Create New RFS Strategy](#)

March 3, 2016 – 12:00 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Eric Wolff (Politico) ... The oil lobby is polling its members to develop ... a new strategy on the Renewable Fuel Standard in the wake of significant policy and political shifts in the ethanol world, American ...

[Popular Government Energy Program Seeks a Big New Twist](#)

March 2, 2016 – 12:07 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Katie Fehrenbacher (Fortune) ... The ARPA-E Summit is meant to highlight lab research, startups, and corporate R&D projects that the Department of Energy has supported with small grants through its ARPA-E program. That program, ...

[Stimulating Investment To Grow the Biobased Economy](#)

February 29, 2016 – 3:08 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Brent Erickson (Biofuels Digest/Biotechnology Innovation Organization) ... The challenge our industry faces right now is to continue building investment in the biobased economy. That can be accomplished with both policy and non-policy activities.

[Obama Proposes Increased Funding for BETO](#)

February 23, 2016 – 11:50 am | [No Comment](#)

(Algae Industry Magazine) President Obama's fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget request was released earlier this month, proposing increased funding levels for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The request proposes \$278.9 million for the Bioenergy ...

Latest Federal Regulation Posts



Octane and its role in achieving engineering, environmental and energy policy objectives took center stage at the National Ethanol Conference in February, attracting some press attention to these benefits of the Renewable Fuel Standard. The amazing ability of ethanol to keep prices at the pump down, even with such low oil prices also received coverage.

However, those positive aspects of ethanol don't prevent or even diminish biofuels' competitors' efforts to demonize renewable fuel, some examples of which are included below. Yet those who understand that renewable transportation fuels play a key role in climate change mitigation, air pollution control and as part of the solution to challenges from waste water/waste management to nutrient management, keep on truckin'.

Here are some of our [latest postings](#). Others you'll find in the [Federal Regulations](#) category.

[API's Understatement of RFS Belies Attempts to Weaken Influential Program](#)

March 8, 2016 – 11:31 am | [No Comment](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) In an interview with POLITICO Pro Energy's Morning Energy,

American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard stipulated that his organization was pivoting its strategy toward reforming the Renewable Fuel Standard rather ...

EPA: Chartered SAB to Review Biogenic Framework

March 4, 2016 – 3:15 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) The U.S. EPA has scheduled a public meeting of the chartered Science Advisory Board March 31-April 1. During the meeting, the SAB is expected to conduct a quality review of ...

A Model of State and Federal Biofuel Policy: Feasibility Assessment of the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard

March 3, 2016 – 2:02 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Adam Christensen, Benjamin Hobbs (Science Direct/Applied Energy) Biofuel policy is under near constant review at both the federal and state level. For example, as part of on-going implementation of the California Low Carbon Fuel ...

Politico Morning Energy: Gerard: API Huddling to Create New RFS Strategy

March 3, 2016 – 12:00 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Eric Wolff (Politico) ... The oil lobby is polling its members to develop ... a new strategy on the Renewable Fuel Standard in the wake of significant policy and political shifts in the ethanol world, American ...

An Update on Alternate Fuels and Taxes

March 2, 2016 – 12:20 pm | [No Comment](#)

by John Martin (Fleet Equipment Magazine) ... The fuel tax credit for LNG was also made in energy equivalency rather than gallons since LNG occupies so little volume. The tax credit will either be calculated on ...

New Resource for Farmers: A Legal and Regulatory Overview of On-Farm Biodiesel Production in Vermont

February 29, 2016 – 7:40 pm | [No Comment](#)

(VTDigger.org) Vermont Law School research commissioned by the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund will help reach biodiesel goals of Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan — A new report, On-Farm Biodiesel Production in Vermont: Legal and Regulatory Overview, ...

Stimulating Investment To Grow the Biobased Economy

February 29, 2016 – 3:08 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Brent Erickson (Biofuels Digest/Biotechnology Innovation Organization) ... The challenge our industry faces right now is to continue building investment in the biobased economy. That can be accomplished with both policy and non-policy activities.

Ethanol Keeps Gasoline Prices Down

February 29, 2016 – 2:33 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Fred Yoder (The Columbus Dispatch/Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association) When the original renewable fuel standard was passed in 2005, gasoline manufacturers were under heavy pressure to do something about the contamination of thousands of ...

Vilsack, Goodlatte Debate Biofuels Policy

February 27, 2016 – 1:22 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Ken Anderson (Brownfield Ag News) Federal support for biofuels came up for discussion at this week's House Agriculture Committee hearing on the state of the rural economy.

Representative Bob Goodlatte of Virginia questioned Agriculture Secretary ...

Ethanol Mandate and the Price You Pay for Gas

February 26, 2016 – 3:34 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Agricultural & Applied Economics Association/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... Just last year the USA Today and Chicago Tribune called for an end to the mandate that was created, in part, to reduce the country's reliance on foreign ...

Fact Checking the 10th GOP Debate

February 26, 2016 – 3:11 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Glenn Kessler and Michelle Ye Hee Lee (The Washington Post) "What I said is that ethanol [mandate] will phase out; it is phasing out now. By 2022, that program expires by virtue of the existing ...

Op-Ed: South Carolina Boats, Presidential Candidates and Ethanol Blended Fuels

February 25, 2016 – 7:59 pm | [No Comment](#)

(BOAT-US) ... E0 (zero-ethanol) gasoline, which is sold at marinas and gas stations, is in effect being pushed out of boat fuel market to make room for the Renewable Fuel Standard-mandated E15 and higher ethanol blends. ...

EPA 'Committed' to Releasing RFS on Time

February 25, 2016 – 7:35 pm | [No Comment](#)

By Spencer Chase (Agri-Pulse) After failing in recent years to meet mandated timelines for the Renewable Fuel Standard, the Environmental Protection Agency is vowing to get the program back on schedule.

"We don't like missing deadlines at ...

New Study Released, FFV Campaign Launched at Ethanol Conference

February 22, 2016 – 6:16 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Holly Jessen (Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... A new campaign, called "Flex My Choice," gives consumers a voice to support FFVs. The effort is aimed at automakers, auto dealers and the U.S. EPA. As the CAFE ...

McCarthy Addresses RFS, Role of Biomass in CPP during Hearing

February 22, 2016 – 5:17 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On Feb. 11, the House Committee on Agriculture held a hearing on U.S. EPA policies that impact the rural economy. The renewable fuel standard (RFS) and Clean Power Plan ...

Let's Not Leave the Discussion in Iowa

February 22, 2016 – 3:41 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Dave VanderGriend (Ethanol Producer Magazine/ICM/Urban Air Initiative) ... Regardless of where candidates stood on ethanol, having this first step on the road to the White House begin in Iowa provides an opportunity to talk about ...

#RFS Is a Top Issue for Ag Equipment Makers

February 15, 2016 – 2:55 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (DomesticFuel.com) The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) hosted an Ag Executive Outlook panel during the opening day of the 2016 National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville this week and one of the top ...

Con: As Climate Change Disasters Loom, It's No Time to Discard Obama's Environmental Legacy

February 12, 2016 – 3:44 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Wayne Madsen (GazetteXtra) EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer is addressing the question, "Should the U.S. scrap ethanol mandates and use its energy surplus to spur the economy?"

Critics, particularly big businesses and right-wing conservatives, keep carping ...

Latest Federal Litigation Posts



Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal Regulation items. This month, litigation for and against the Environmental Protection Agency's renewable volume obligation process and numbers was the target of new filings.

Here are some recent articles posted on the Advanced Biofuels USA website.

Follow the links to the original posts to access the full articles. Find more items about federal litigation on our website, click [here](#).

Abengoa Bioenergy Files for Chapter 11 for Parent and 5 Subsidiaries

February 25, 2016 – 8:11 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Missouri, Abengoa Bioenergy US Holding, LLC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy relief in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri on behalf of itself and 5 of its ...

Valero Asks EPA to Redefine RFS Definition of Obligated Party

February 23, 2016 – 3:36 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Valero Energy Corp. has filed with a petition for reconsideration with the U.S. EPA, asking it to revise its definition of "obligated party" under the renewable fuel standard (RFS). ...

Despite Lawsuits, EPA Investigation, Renewable Fuel Standard 'Not Doomed'

February 22, 2016 – 7:17 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Jessica Lyons Hardcastle (Environmental Leader) In the latest efforts to repeal the US biofuel mandate, last week the American Petroleum Institute and the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers both filed lawsuits challenging the Renewable Fuel ...

Ethanol Mandate Triggers 'Constant Litigation,' USDA Chief Says

February 22, 2016 – 3:50 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Mario Parker (Bloomberg) EPA reduced ethanol volumes below statutory levels in November; Valero Energy files suit against U.S. government over target — The conflict between agriculture and petroleum interests over the government's ethanol mandate shows no ...

[Valero Energy Sues U.S. EPA over Biofuels Plan](#)

February 15, 2016 – 11:57 am | [No Comment](#)

by Chris Prentice (Reuters) Valero Energy Corp filed lawsuits against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday to push the regulator to alter a U.S. policy designed to boost use of renewables in transportation fuels.

The ...

On The Road

Greeting Colleagues, Making New Friends at Advanced Bioeconomy Leadership Conference



Advanced Biofuels USA's **Joanne Ivancic, Robert Kozak, Bill Brandon, Luladay Mengistie** and **Osaretin Omorodion** attended, covered or helped staff the Advanced Bioeconomy Leadership Conference in February in Washington, DC.

You might think that annual conferences feel the same year after year. Not true. One of the reasons to attend conferences is to get an update on the dynamic 'feel' or zeitgeist of an industry, a movement, a community. Gatherings such as Biofuels Digest's Advanced Bioeconomy Leadership Conference provide that opportunity.

As international bioeconomy leader and LanzaTech CEO **Jennifer Holmgren** (pictured above with



Bill Brandon) said, part of the reason to attend is to reconnect with friends. Even among dark-suited professionals, there are hugs with people you have watched grow over the years; with people with whom you have experienced life-work's ups and downs. And the biofuels/bioeconomy sector has certainly experienced a surfeit of those which has created a special camaraderie.



This [conference highlighted](#) the pivot of many in the biofuels world to chemicals in light of the diminished government support illustrated by what Energy Secretary **Ernest Moniz** wrote in the Austin American-Statesman on February 19 in an [article titled "U.S. Needs Investments in Clean Energy:"](#) ***DOE was only able***

to support less than two percent of the proposals submitted for one of our latest rounds of funding.

Add that to the shrinkage of the Biomass Research & Development Initiative's total funding from \$40 Million/year in 2012 to \$3 Million/year now and you get the unsettling picture.

No matter the importance of replacing petroleum products to international security, as discussed by an expert panel of Truman National Security Project Executive Director, **Michael Breen**, the Navy's **Chris Tindal** and AltAir Fuels CEO **Bryan Sherbacow** (pictured above) at a special [Energy Security breakfast](#). [READ MORE](#) and [MORE](#)

Original Articles!

Politics in the US and Biogas in Europe



Policy Analysis continues as the focus of this month's articles with **Robert (Bob) Kozak's** "[After the Fall!](#)" continuing to attract reader attention to the choices we face as the US builds a liquid transportation fuel industry--invest in sustainable, renewable resources or in fossil-based fuels with prices controlled by hostile forces?

He also applied his experience with political campaigns to a quick analysis of the Super Tuesday results, an analysis that continues to be pertinent as other states hold primaries.



Danilo Gusmao wrote a [special report](#) reviewing the history and present situation of anaerobic digestion and [biogas in Europe](#) gleaned from a lengthy tour of digesters and participation in multiple conferences in Germany and the UK. An abundance of references and resources is included.

Posted after the article are two interviews with important researchers in this area: Professor Hans Oechsner of the State Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Bioenergy and Dr. Michael Köttner from IBBK – Internationales Biogas & Bioenergy Kompetenzzentrum.



From Nigeria, **Oladunjoye A. Waleola** of Avandith Renewable Energy Limited writes a [first-hand account](#) of grass roots efforts to establish a jatropha-based biofuel industry. He explains "the motivation behind this project was borne out of the desire (i) To produce fuels having fewer emissions of carbon monoxide particulates and toxic chemicals that cause smog, aggravate

respiratory and heart disease, and contribute to thousands of premature deaths each year worldwide; (ii) To reduce poverty to the barest minimum as cultivation of *Jatropha curcas* will serve as a source of income for farmers, most especially in Africa; and (iii) To reduce the hazards posed by fossil fuel on the climate."

As is true with visionaries around the world of biofuels they he and his wife initially planned to operate on a large scale, but due to financial constraints they narrowed it down hoping to eventually enlarge.

[Using Data to Project Future Results: What Do Super Tuesday Primary Numbers Say About the General Election?](#)

March 2, 2016 – 4:24 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Robert Kozak* (Advanced Biofuels USA) Editors Note: We usually don't write about election results, but today's mainstream media coverage of the Super Tuesday primaries seemed to call for some analysis. In some ways it's ...

[Price of Oil Crushes Liquid Transportation Fuels—Renewable and Not — Now What?](#)

February 16, 2016 – 12:20 pm | [No Comment](#)

Editorial by Joanne Ivancic* (Advanced Biofuels USA) “Europe should promote the development of home-grown alternatives to imported oil and gas,” according to former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who was Danish Prime Minister from November ...

[Bailout the US Shale Oil/Gas Industry or Fund Clean Sustainable Renewable Transportation? A New Way of Looking at the Options. Press Release](#)

February 16, 2016 – 10:45 am | [No Comment](#)

For Immediate Release February 12, 2016—Frederick, MD Advanced Biofuels USA correspondent Robert E. Kozak analyses the potential for a reinvigorated US shale oil/gas industry with and without government subsidies; and compares it to the potential for near-term ...

[Biogas in Europe: Current Situation and Perspectives](#)

March 4, 2016 – 6:50 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Dan Quadros* (Advanced Biofuels USA) This article is the result of a technical trip to Germany and the UK to participate in strategic meetings and visit labs; to attend seminars, an expo, a short ...

[Benefits and Ordeals of a Biofuel Project in Nigeria](#)

February 29, 2016 – 12:23 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Oladunjoye A. Waleola (Avandith Renewable Energy Limited Nigeria; special to Advanced Biofuels USA) Avandith Renewable Energy Limited Nigeria is a company deeply involved in *Jatropha curcas* cultivation as well as biofuel production. We have ...

More Educational Resources

[Biodico Trains Future Bioenergy Leaders To Excel in Green Economy, Drive Local Job Growth](#)

(Biodico/BusinessWire) Program Part of Commitment to Spur Job Growth in San Joaquin Valley; Train Engineers in Next-Generation Bioenergy Technologies — Internship Program Aligns with Curricula at University of California Santa Barbara and West Hills Community College. ...

[Collegiate Biodiesel Workshop – March 17-19, 2016 – Chicago, IL](#)

Loyola University Chicago's third annual Climate Change Conference: Global Climate Change: Economic Challenges and Solutions (WATCH VIDEO) Generously sponsored by: the Institute for Environmental Sustainability, the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund, and the Gannon Center for ...

[Become a Next Generation Biodiesel Leader](#)

by Joanna Schroeder (DomesticFuel.com) The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) is calling for the next crop of biodiesel leaders to join the Next Generation Scientists for Biodiesel program. NGSB is seeking additional co-chairs to help take ...

[Arizona High School Students Take Part in Biodiesel Project](#)

(Arizona Charter Academy/Biodiesel Magazine) Thanks to the hard work and dedication of a high school math and science teacher from Arizona Charter Academy and a group of enthusiastic high school students, a diesel bus will ...

[News from Greenspeed Research](#) by Dave Schenker (Greenspeed Research) The major happenings in 2015 that you might remember: In March, Greenspeed Research became a federally recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, with a mission to create learning opportunities for the STEM disciplines and renewable energy ...

[Bioenergy and Bioproducts Education Programs – June 20-24, 2016 at Penn State; July 11-15, 2016 at West Virginia](#)

[University: TBD at Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, New York](#)

Bioenergy and Bioproducts Education Programs provide professional development and hands-on teaching tools for educators (grades 6 – 16, in-service and pre-service teachers and extension educators) who want to learn and teach about the Bioenergy systems ...

[College Student Assesses Biodiesel Production on Minnesota Campus](#)

by Jenna Ray (Biodiesel Magazine/University of Minnesota, Morris) The possibility of biodiesel production at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is driving Hannah Goemann, a junior biochemistry major from Wells, Minnesota. Goemann is partnering with the ...

[BioFuelNet Canada Brings Biofuels Education to Canadian High Schools](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Quebec, BioFuelNet Canada has partnered with Talk Energy Week to participate as panelists at schools in eight Canadian cities, where they will be discussing sustainable advanced biofuels with over ...

[EPA Awards Grants to 38 Student Teams for Innovative Sustainable Projects](#)

(US Environmental Protection Agency/ForConstructionPros.com) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced 38 People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) grants to university student teams for proposed projects to develop new, sustainable products and strategies. Each team ...

[If you can help students attend conferences, please do. It's an incredibly valuable experience.](#)

Scholarships and Competitions

[National Black Farmers Association Scholarships](#)

(National Black Farmers Association) Scholarship Program With the National Black Farmers Association Supports African American Farmers — The National Black Farmers Association (NBFA) Scholarship Program today opened the application period for 2016 scholarships. The application site, ...

[CBMNet Funding Announcements: Includes Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships](#) Various deadlines

(Crossing Biological Membranes Network) At CBMNet we foster collaborations between academia and industry to tackle research challenges in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (IBBE). We are working to understand the mechanisms by which substances are transported into, ...

[NEWBio Scholarships Available: Online Bioenergy Graduate Education DEADLINE: March 15, 2016](#)

(NEWBio) NEWBio is offering a limited number of scholarships for students to take the following online graduate-level bioenergy courses during the summer semester of 2016: ABE884 (Bioenergy Systems) and ABE885 (Bioenergy Harvest and Logistics). Find ...

[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative Fellowships DEADLINES: February 11, March 18 and March 24, 2016](#)

(US Department of Agriculture) Program: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) | AFRI Education and Literacy Initiative | Educational Scholarship Programs The AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI) ...

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