

Federal legislation, regulation, litigation. Policy. Scholarships and Competitions. Plus Educational Resources. And Advanced Biofuels USA activities. HAPPY SOLSTICE!

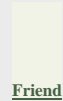
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*Advanced Biofuels USA, a nonprofit educational organization, advocates for the adoption of advanced biofuels as an energy security, economic development, military flexibility and climate change solution.*



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Friend



**How we connect in the 21st century.** by Brigid Hodson, student in Frederick, MD. *used with permission*

**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. This month features Toxic Substances Control Act reform. 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](http://www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org).

### [House Bill Could Help Small and Mid-Size Dairies Deal with Excess Nutrients](#)

June 20, 2016 – 1:03 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On June 16, Representative Tom Reed (R-NY) and Ron Kind (D-WI) along with 12 Republican and Democratic co-sponsors introduced the Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Act (H.R. 5489), which would expand the eligibility ...

### [NFU Calls on Lawmakers to Stop Undermining #Biofuels](#)

June 16, 2016 – 3:06 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) ... The National Farmers Union (NFU) is calling on legislators to stop undermining national security and adopt the benefits of advanced biofuels.

“... The recurring attempts to quietly neutralize biofuels through the defense

appropriations ...

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### **[The Huge Flaw in How Congress Is Approaching Burning Wood for Energy](#)**

June 16, 2016 – 2:30 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Chelsea Harvey (The Washington Post) ... The controversy centers on a specific provision in the House appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017 regarding the burning of biomass (typically wood and other plant material) for energy. The bill proposes that ...

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### **[TSCA: What Effect Will the TSCA Amendments Have on Proposed and Future Rulemakings?](#)**

June 14, 2016 – 6:59 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Bergeson & Campbell) On June 7, 2016, the Senate passed the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (Lautenberg) by voice vote and sent it to President Obama for signature. As reported ...

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### **[GOP to Rule Out Carbon Tax](#)**

June 8, 2016 – 1:05 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Timothy Cama (The Hill) House Republicans this week will vote to condemn taxes on carbon dioxide emissions, slamming the door on an idea that some members of their party have flirted with in the past. ...

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### **[Like Opera with TSCA-Nini](#)**

June 8, 2016 – 12:31 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Eric Wolff (Politico's Morning Energy) TSCA-NINI SINGS! The Senate swept aside any remaining procedural hurdles Tuesday night and passed a major revision of the Toxic Substances Control Act, sending one of the biggest environmental ...

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### **[Of Sausage-Making, DC and Bioenergy Budgets](#)**

June 2, 2016 – 9:47 am | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) The signals coming out of Washington DC are so confusing, you might be wondering if there's going to be a budget for the US Department of Energy for the fiscal ...

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### **[After 40 years: The Digest's Multi-Slide Guide to Toxic Substances Control Act reform](#)**

May 26, 2016 – 11:36 am | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform has been a "work in progress" for years. House and Senate passage in 2015 of substantive TSCA reform measures considerably improved the odds that ...

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## Latest Federal Regulation Posts



The hot regulatory topic this month is the RVO (renewable volume obligation)-- the announcement and the hearings on that topic in Kansas, and calls for 'obligated party' reform. Even a *Dancing with the Stars* celebrity gets into the action.

The value of ethanol's octane and its ability to replace carcinogenic aromatics also top this month's online articles.

Methane rules and discussions about the carbon neutrality of woody biomass may not include biofuels directly, but will have an impact. Scroll down for information about regulations related to these topics and others among our [latest postings](#). Others you'll find in the [Federal Regulations](#) category online.

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### [A Gift to the Next Generation](#)

June 20, 2016 – 3:32 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Chris Soules (The Courier) ... The RFS is one law nearly every farmer knows. It requires oil companies to offer consumers clean, renewable choices at the gasoline pump, including blends of homegrown ethanol produced ...

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### [The Annual Battle for Renewables](#)

June 17, 2016 – 5:34 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Bob Dinneen (The Hill) ... It's worth recalling why a bipartisan coalition of policymakers, including President George W. Bush, worked together in 2007 to expand the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), which requires oil companies to ...

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### [Helping Tell Ethanol's Real Story](#)

June 17, 2016 – 11:54 am | [No Comment](#)

by Dave VanderGriend (ICM, Inc./Urban Air Institute/Ethanol Producer Magazine) In the world of ethanol, we need to get people smarter and "coach up" the public, media and policymakers as to the real story about our ...

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### [High Octane, Low Carb #Biofuels Better for Fuel Economy](#)

June 16, 2016 – 3:25 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Tom Daschle, is leading an effort to ensure that high octane, low carbon fuels are part of EPA's midterm evaluation of the progress of federal fuel ...

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### [Power Plants Are No Longer America's Biggest Climate Problem. Transportation Is.](#)

June 15, 2016 – 4:53 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Brad Plumer (Vox) A new energy era is upon us: For the first time since 1979, America's cars, trucks, and airplanes emit more carbon dioxide than its power plants do. ... The story here is that ...

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### [Valero Presses EPA for RFS Change](#)

**June 14, 2016 – 11:27 am** | [No Comment](#)

(Argus Media) US Environmental Protection Agency administrators should shift the burden of US biofuel blending mandates closer to retail stations, US independent refiner Valero said today.

The company, one of the largest US producers of both ...

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### **Connecting the Dots**

**June 13, 2016 – 6:50 pm** | [No Comment](#)

by David VanderGriend (Ethanol Producer Magazine/ICM Inc./Urban Air Initiative) ...

We've learned that we can reduce harmful emissions by replacing toxic compounds in gasoline with clean burning ethanol, which improves air quality and protects public ...

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### **Designing Tomorrow's Fuels for Tomorrow's Engines: DOE's Co-Optima**

**June 10, 2016 – 6:37 pm** | [No Comment](#)

(Environmental and Energy Study Institute) Between June 6 and 10, the Department of Energy (DOE) held its Annual Merit Review (AMR) in Washington D.C. At the meeting, over 350 national lab activities were evaluated within ...

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### **ADM, Biofuel Supporters Say EPA Underestimates Use of Higher-Ethanol Fuels**

**June 10, 2016 – 3:32 pm** | [No Comment](#)

by Chris Prentice (Reuters) Archer Daniels Midland Co and other supporters of biofuels on Thursday said U.S. regulators grossly underestimated the amount of higher-ethanol fuel blends at pumps when requirements for next year's use of ...

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### **Guest Opinion: Misinformation Hurts Ethanol's Place at Pump**

**June 6, 2016 – 2:56 pm** | [No Comment](#)

by Mike Lefever (Post Independent/Citizen Telegram) ... In the end, though, I hope your take away is the same as mine; there's a place at the pump for ethanol, petroleum and other fuels. We just don't want ...

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### **Biofuel Boosters Rally Support for Higher Blend Levels in 2017**

**June 6, 2016 – 1:57 pm** | [No Comment](#)

(Fuels America/Ethanol Producer Magazine) The nation's leading biofuel advocates are rallying supporters to urge the U.S. EPA to increase its proposed 2017 targets under the renewable fuel standard (RFS). With the start of the EPA's ...

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### **Renewable Fuel Volumes Disappoint**

**June 2, 2016 – 12:16 pm** | [No Comment](#)

by Jane Fyksen (AgriView) ... But the proposed increases fall short of National Corn Growers Association expectations. Chip Bowling, National Corn Grower president and Maryland farmer, said while the EPA has moved in a better ...

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### **Biofuels Are Proven Winners – But Still Get No Respect**

**June 1, 2016 – 7:20 pm** | [No Comment](#)

by Jonathan H Harsch (AgriPulse) The 2017 Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) proposed by EPA disappointed both biofuels and fossil fuels advocates. That's because EPA set next year's mandate for corn ethanol at 14.8 billion gallons – 200 ...

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### **[EPA Posts Supporting Documents for RFS Rulemaking](#)**

June 1, 2016 – 7:04 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) On May 31, the U.S. EPA published its proposed rule to set 2017 renewable fuel standard (RFS) volume requirements in the Federal Register and posted dozens of supporting documents ...

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### **[Summer Brings Ethanol Quirk to Iowa Gas Stations](#)**

June 1, 2016 – 6:50 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Charlie Good (Des Moines Register/Good and Quick) ... Today, due to a combination of a quirk in federal regulation and the heavy-handed tactics of the oil industry, I walk out to my fuel pumps and ...

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### **[Growth Energy Applauds Trump's Pro-RFS Statements](#)**

June 1, 2016 – 4:37 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Growth Energy has spoken out to applaud a statement made by presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump in support of the renewable fuel standard (RFS). Meanwhile, two former senators ...

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### **[Point/Counterpoint: Is It Time for Greens To Reassess Their Opposition to Ethanol?](#)**

May 28, 2016 – 12:40 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Senator Timothy Wirth and C. Boyden Gray (Yale Environment 360) The criticism of ethanol by environmentalists is misguided and just plain wrong. In fact, thanks to improvements in farming techniques, increasing the amount of ...

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### **[Trump's Right to Support Ethanol Mandates](#)**

May 26, 2016 – 2:37 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Kevin Skunes (Grand Forks Herald) ... Thankfully, there's one vital energy policy that both Trump and his opponent, Hillary Clinton, have promised to support: the Renewable Fuel Standard, which requires that oil companies make increasing ...

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### **[Ethanol Called Fuel of Future](#)**

May 26, 2016 – 2:24 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Erica Quinlan (AgriNews) Bobby Likis is an engine builder with 45 years of experience in the automotive service industry. He's serviced around 200,000 vehicles and answered upward of 100,000 car-related questions on the radio. In this ...

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### **[Why Is the BBD RVO So Low and What Can NBB Do about It?](#)**

May 26, 2016 – 12:23 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Don Scott (National Biodiesel Board/Biofuels Digest) EPA proposes to continue growing the Required Volume Obligations (RVO) for Biomass Based Diesel (BBD) under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), but at a paltry 100 million gallons a ...

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### **[EPA Is Trying to Get Out of Its Own Way on the RFS](#)**

May 23, 2016 – 11:07 am | [No Comment](#)

by Brent Erickson (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/Biofuels Digest) ... The practical and legal constraints on the RFS are mostly of EPA's own making. As EPA

admitted in the final 2014-2016 rule, it set the volume obligations ...

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### **What Kevin Cramer Is Telling Trump about Making American Energy Great Again**

May 20, 2016 – 11:28 am | [No Comment](#)

by Mark Drajem (Bloomberg) Say what you will about the EPA, but it doesn't take the easy way out. EPA issued its proposal for the 2017 Renewable Fuel Standard yesterday, surprisingly early given that it has been ...

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### **Ernst: EPA's Latest RFS Levels Don't Follow 2007 Law**

May 20, 2016 – 11:15 am | [No Comment](#)

by O. Kay Henderson (Radio Iowa) Senator Joni Ernst says EPA administrators may be called before congress to explain the agency's recent decision on renewable fuel standards.

"There is clear direction from congress," Ernst says, "and ...

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### **National Biodiesel Board Says Production Is Already Ahead of EPA Targets**

May 19, 2016 – 1:26 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Nicole Heslip (Brownfield Ag News) The National Biodiesel Board says the industry has already met the biodiesel targets set by EPA for 2018.

Vice President of Federal Affairs Anne Steckel tells Brownfield they're happy to ...

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### **It's Time for an Octane Boost**

May 18, 2016 – 3:58 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Tracey King (Detroit News) While our automobiles have experienced remarkable changes over the past several decades, the fuels we put in them have not.

Specifically, the octane rating of regular gasoline today is the ...

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### **Ethanol Blending Pressures Already Shrinking Refiner Margins**

May 16, 2016 – 5:42 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Laura Blewitt (Bloomberg) Federally mandated ethanol blending is adding extra pressure to the faltering profits of U.S. refiners.

The worst crude oil downturn in a generation, which at first helped refiners' profits, has now passed through ...

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### **Oil Market Manipulation Is Alive and Well**

May 13, 2016 – 4:53 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Talent (Americans for Energy Security and Innovation/The Hill) Opponents of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) claim that the free hand of an unrestricted marketplace will guide biofuels into our fuel supply, driving economic ...

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## Latest Federal Litigation Posts



Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal Regulation items.

Find more items about federal litigation on our website, click [here](#).

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### [The Problem and Promise of Ethanol](#)

June 20, 2016 – 3:41 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Art Cullen (Storm Lake Times) ... So how can we produce ethanol sustainably — that is, a scheme under which farmers can make money without releasing nitrate to the river and help power America while ...

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### [Ethanol Industry Blasts EPA 'Hogwash'](#)

June 9, 2016 – 4:51 pm | [No Comment](#)

by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) The ethanol industry will lay into the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday for proposing a 2017 renewable fuel standard that it says is based on oil industry "hogwash."  
The industry also ...

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### [VW, Porsche Seek To Escape Feds' Emissions Suit](#)

May 18, 2016 – 11:41 am | [No Comment](#)

by Dani Meyer (Law 360) Volkswagen and Porsche separately urged a California federal court Monday to toss the government's allegations that the automakers cheated emissions standards, with Volkswagen arguing that the suit doesn't show it ...

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### [Calif. Carbon Rule Challenge Needs More Oomph, Judge Says](#)

May 17, 2016 – 10:42 am | [No Comment](#)

by Kali Hays (Law 360) Fuel and agricultural groups need to make more specific arguments if they want to reassert claims tossed from their challenge to California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, now that the rule ...

## 20,000 + Articles Indexed in Online Library

Advanced Biofuels USA hit another milestone with now **over 20,000 articles** categorized, indexed and linked on the online library website, [www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org](http://www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org).

"Not only a resource for today; but a repository of history," said Joanne Ivancic, executive director. "We've even added a category and tag "history" to highlight articles that include summaries of events, policy decisions, scientific and technological paths that have gotten us where we are."



This is a key tool for Advanced Biofuels USA volunteers who research and prepare educational materials and policy statements. "No sense keeping it just for ourselves. We are pleased to share this with the world through the wonders of the Internet," Ivancic explains. Original writing is gathered [here](#).

## More Educational Resources

### *Presentations for Public Use*



Just a reminder: In the [Biofuels Basics](#) section of the Advanced Biofuels USA website, you can find PowerPoint presentations for use "as is" or as resources for your own slide show.

### *STEM Career Day at Urbana High School, Frederick, MD*



Urbana High School in Frederick, MD, invites people engaged in STEM careers to talk to students during one full day at the end of the school year. Each presenter gets a classroom and does eight iterations of their presentation; the students rotate according to

their interests.

Exhausting and rewarding.

Advanced Biofuels USA's presentation features a few minutes of "Biofuels 101" that incorporates slides listing dozens of jobs that are essential to transitioning to a truly sustainable renewable energy world.



From the usual suspects, biologists, chemists, engineers of all stripes; to farmers, growers, agronomists, farm equipment operators, and not-to-be overlooked, the construction workers, pipefitters and others who build biorefineries; and the computer programmers and technicians who make them operate properly. [READ MORE](#)

### *Educational News*

#### [Indian Students Build Machine to Convert Cooking Oil to Biodiesel!](#)

June 16, 2016 – 11:52 am | [No Comment](#)

(Biofuels International) A team of three Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) students have come up with a prototype called FAME One to convert waste cooking oil into biodiesel.

The invention, which outwardly resembles a washing ...

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#### **Local College Instructor Attends 'Summer School' about Chemistry of Biodiesel**

June 14, 2016 – 3:26 pm | [No Comment](#)

(The Daily Independent) ... After diesel students complete the online biodiesel course sponsored by the Kentucky Soybean Board, instructors and students often want to know: "What can I learn about soy biodiesel next?" After being asked that ...

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#### **Ship Voyages on 100 Percent Renewable Biofuel for 1 Year**

June 14, 2016 – 2:39 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Brittany Hook (University of California San Diego) Harnessing the University of California's leadership in sustainability and pledge to become carbon neutral by 2025, Scripps Institution of Oceanography Associate Director Bruce Appelgate had a bright idea: What ...

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#### **Urgent 'Shift' Needed in Media Approach to Bioenergy**

June 14, 2016 – 10:47 am | [No Comment](#)

(Bioenergy Insight) Bioenergy academia and industry representatives, who attended the European Biomass Conference & Exhibition (EUBCE), are calling on European policy makers and the media to reconsider their approach to bioenergy.

...

A press release issued by ...

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#### **Oh Magoo! The Digest Looks at Mainstream Media's Coverage of Renewables**

June 10, 2016 – 11:33 am | [No Comment](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) The Blundermeisters of Media Misinformation are at it again. The world's favorite advanced biofuel, biodiesel, gets another hit job from mainstream media. The Digest investigates. — AFP, the major international ...

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#### **New Liquid Fuel Research & Training Center Opened**

June 9, 2016 – 4:21 pm | [No Comment](#)

(National Oilheat Research Alliance) The National Oilheat Research Alliance and two Oilheating associations recently celebrated the opening of a new research and training facility designed specifically for Oilheating fuels and renewables, such as and Bioheat®

...

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#### **Arizona State University Biodiesel Lab Helps Power, Feed University Farm**

June 8, 2016 – 1:50 pm | [No Comment](#)

by David Bennett (Delta Farm Press) Surrounded by educational posters and a large dry board full of mathematical equations, Kevin Humphrey sits explaining how the biodiesel lab in adjacent rooms came to be.

"I've been here

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#### **DOE: 2016 BioenergizeME Infographic Challenge Winners Crowned**

June 6, 2016 – 12:49 pm | [No Comment](#)

(U.S. Department of Energy/Biomass Magazine) The winner of the 2016 BioenergizeME Infographic Challenge was announced during a special awards ceremony on May 11 by Jonathan Male, Director of the Bioenergy Technologies

Office. The winning infographic entitled "Cellulosic ...

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### **[The Carbon XPRIZE: Exponential Approaches to Energy and Climate](#)**

June 6, 2016 – 11:24 am | [No Comment](#)

by Marcius Extavour and Paul Bunje (XPRIZE/Biofuels Digest) ... Under the right conditions, biofuels and biomass-based energy systems can be sustainable, modular, scalable, carbon neutral, or even carbon negative. This has been known for some time, ...

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### **[MGPUB Announces Flex Fuel Video Contest DEADLINE: July 25, 2016](#)**

June 3, 2016 – 2:28 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Joanna Schroeder (Energy.AgWired.com) The Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board (MGPUB) has launched its Drive Flex Fuel video contest to kick off its 2016 Maryland Drive Flex Fuels advertising campaign. Winning-worthy videos will be 30 seconds ...

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### **[MIT Professor Discusses Pros and Cons of Using Biofuels](#)**

June 2, 2016 – 2:09 pm | [No Comment](#)

(AZO CleanTech) MIT professor of chemical engineering and a biofuels expert, Kristala Prather has her own dimension about the concept of biofuels renaissance. She had an open discussion with a group of undergraduates at the ...

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### **[Scientists Turning Human Waste into Biofuel in South Korea](#)**

June 1, 2016 – 5:54 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Brooks Hays (UPI) Researchers in South Korea have turned a bathroom into a laboratory for sustainable energy. They're turning human waste into biofuel. The experimental bathroom features a waterless toilet system that breaks down human ...

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### **[Teacher Appreciation Week: Thank You Biofuel Educators!](#)**

June 1, 2016 – 5:34 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) Over the past 8 months our Ethanol Plant Tour Grant program has met resounding success. This program has seen over 260 students tour the inside of their local ethanol plant to learn ...

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### **[Ethanol And Octane For Beginners](#)**

June 1, 2016 – 5:24 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Minnesota Bio-Fuels Association) Ethanol is often talked about as a high-octane fuel. But not everyone has a clear understanding of octane and how it affects the performance of their cars. So let's start right at ...

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### **[Editorial: UCLA's Composting Is Wasted Opportunity for Biofuel Production](#)**

May 26, 2016 – 3:00 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Daily Bruin) UCLA has sustained interest in reducing waste over the years, but it might have lost its interest in innovation. While the 45 tons of food waste and biodegradable packaging its dining halls produce every month ...

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### **[Workshop In Japan Aims To Dispel Myths On U.S. Ethanol GHGs](#)**

May 20, 2016 – 1:15 pm | [No Comment](#)

(U.S. Grains Council) The U.S. Grains Council (USGC) and its industry partners

sought to dispel myths about U.S. ethanol and open the door for the renewable fuel in the Japanese market this week at a ...

emissions from a diesel exhaust are heavily influenced by the fuel's composition  
According to the European Commission, biofuels now represent around 5 per cent of ...

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#### **RFA Wins TRANSCAER Award for Ethanol Safety**

May 16, 2016 – 6:11 pm | [No Comment](#)

by Joanna Schroeder (DomesticFuel.com) For the fourth time, the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), has won the TRANSCAER National Achievement Award for hosting its series of ethanol safety seminars last year for first and emergency responders. ...

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

#### ***Scholarships and Competitions***

#### **Create the Future Design Contest Accepting 2016 Entries DEADLINE: July 1, 2016**

May 11, 2016 – 7:05 pm | [No Comment](#)

(Create the Future Design Contest) The Create the Future Design Contest was launched in 2002 by the publishers of NASA Tech Briefs magazine to help stimulate and reward engineering innovation. The annual event has attracted ...

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#### **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, ...

### **Grant Opportunities**

For a list of grant opportunities, [CLICK HERE](#).

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You can now make a secure donation to Advanced Biofuels USA via PayPal by clicking on the "[Donate](#)" button above. It's quick, easy and safe. Make it a year-long gift by making monthly installments automatically.

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