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

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



Along with end-of-the-year reviews, the usual US end-of-the-year legislation crunch attracted plenty of attention. Tax credits, in particular. And then, the cans got kicked down the street as Congress struggles to fund the government, even without making changes. The impasse reflects deep divisions throughout Congress. And the country?

The Renewable Fuel Standard reform or revisions and tax incentives remain on the table. And carbon tax/price/cost discussions build.

For more legislative news (including Executive Orders), [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.

[Trump and the Military Are at Odds on Climate Change](#)

January 22, 2018 – by Sean Mowbray (Pacific Standard) While the Trump administration has largely rejected climate change as an issue, the Department of Defense and Congress have identified it as a major potential threat to national security. — ... On ...

[Cornyn's Biofuels Bid](#)

January 19, 2018 – by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Texas Republican John Cornyn is drawing up ideas for new legislation to overhaul the Renewable Fuel Standard, in a bid to end the stalemate between corn-state lawmakers and oily ones. "Cornyn's office ...

[Letter: Reform Ethanol](#)

January 17, 2018 – by Pete Kolbenschlag (Post Independent/Citizen Telegram) ... Rep. Welch from Vermont is leading an effort to rethink ethanol, and to lead Congress to fix this broken policy. Colorado's congressional delegation should join in this effort before more ...

[2017 Wrap-Up: Maintaining the Status Quo](#)

January 5, 2018 – by Michael McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association/Biomass

Magazine) Last year was among the most active and interesting years we've seen in the biofuels space. The industry has confronted multiple challenges over the past 12 months, culminating in ...

[Congress Needs to Restore Tax Breaks for 'Orphan' Renewables](#)

January 4, 2018 – (25 x '25 REsource) As Congress ratchets up its ongoing budget battles – the continuing resolution that is currently funding the government expires Jan. 19 – clean energy advocates of all stripes must hold lawmakers to ...

[Grassley Marks Policy, Oversight Accomplishments in 2017](#)

January 4, 2018 – (North Iowa Today) Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa marked a series of policy and oversight accomplishments in 2017. ... Grassley introduced the Food Security is National Security Act of 2017, which would give top U.S. agriculture and food officials ...

[Farmers Urge Congress to Extend Lapsed Tax Credits for Biodiesel, Renewable Energy](#)

December 28, 2017 – (Farm Bureau News) A recently introduced bill would continue several expired tax provisions important to farmers and ranchers. Offered by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the Tax Extenders Act of 2017 (S. 2256) would ...

[Schneiderman Backs Carbon Tax](#)

December 27, 2017 – New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman became the first New York statewide elected official to back a carbon tax this week, POLITICO New York's Danielle Muoio reports. "That includes passing legislation to dramatically reduce greenhouse ...

[The Tax Bill's Gift to Big Coal](#)

December 27, 2017 – by Emily Atkin (The New Republic) The legislation is a boon

to fossil fuel companies not only because of what it includes, but what it doesn't.
— By now, it's no secret that the sweeping tax ...

[U.S. Renewable Fuel Credits Pressured by Biodiesel Tax Credit Optimism](#)

December 26, 2017 – by Michael Hirtzer (Reuters) U.S. renewable fuel credits remained under pressure on Thursday as expectations mounted that lawmakers may soon renew a \$1-per-gallon rebate for biodiesel blenders that could curb worries over tight supplies in the thinly-traded ...

[Renewable Fuels Groups Celebrate 10 Years of RFS](#)

December 26, 2017 – by Hagstrom Report (The Fence Post) Renewable fuels groups this week issued statements celebrating the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which established the Renewable Fuel Standard and called ...

[The Biofuels Industry Reacts to White House RFS Meetings](#)

December 22, 2017 – by Erin Voegelé (Ethanol Producer Magazine) President Trump has hosted two meetings in recent weeks with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and others focused on the Renewable Fuel Standard and renewable identification numbers (RINs). Those representing the ...

[ACE Sends Letter Urging Extension of Cellulosic Biofuel, Biodiesel Tax Credits](#)

December 16, 2017 – (American Coalition for Ethanol/KTIC) The American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) CEO Brian Jennings sent a letter today (December 15, 2017) to Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means Kevin Brady and Chairman of the Committee ...

[Can Fuel Efficiency Standards Be Met Cost-Effectively? The Potential for High-Octane, Low-Carbon Fuels](#)

December 15, 2017 – (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) To cut

petroleum usage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fuel efficiency standards are set to rise significantly by 2025 under the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and greenhouse gas (GHG) standards—jointly ...

Latest on Federal Regulation



After ineffective White House meetings, discussions continued about RINs prices, the point of obligation and the underlying goal of the Renewable Fuel Standard, as President George W. Bush put it, to wean America off its addiction to oil.

With international pressure to "decarbonize" transport, the work in the US becomes more and more valuable; and regulations that encourage and facilitate thoughtful, sustainable progress toward finding replacements for fossil fuel continue. And retailers in the US are finding interested customers.

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.

[Research Finds Land Management Practices Matter in Cellulosic Biofuels Production](#)

January 22, 2018 – by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) New research from Argonne National Laboratory, the University of Chicago at Illinois and the International Food Policy Research Institute shows that incorporating conservation practices can both increase soil ...

[Pressure Builds for Trump to Change Federal Ethanol Mandate](#)

January 20, 2018 –by Debra J. Saunders (Tampa Bay Newspapers) ... But now free-market conservative groups and oil-state Republicans are pushing the administration to cut the corn cord.

For Ken Cuccinelli of the conservative group FreedomWorks, it's a moral issue. ...

[Sweet Sorghum as an Ethanol Feedstock in Western Nebraska – Could It Happen?](#)

January 20, 2018 – by Richard Perrin, Lilyan Fulginiti, Subir Bairagi, Ismail Dweikat (KRVN) It has been proposed that non-irrigated sweet sorghum might be grown in western Nebraska as a seasonal substitute for corn grain in corn ethanol plants. In ...

[C-Stores Meeting New Fuel Demands](#)

January 19, 2018 – by David Bennett (Convenience Store Decisions) Whether it's teaming with Tesla to install charging stations or integrating alternative fuel solutions, retailers are part of a changing transportation marketplace. — ... Some analysts insist the internal combustion engine ...

[The Digest's 2018 Multi-Slide Guide to the SPARC Regional Biojet Fuel Consortium](#)

January 19, 2018 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Sometimes, what an engine needs to roar to life is a spark. Or a SPARC, as in this case.

As in the Southeastern Partnership for Advanced Renewables from Carinata (SPARC), a consortium consisting of ...

[My Voice: A 'Swing and a Miss' from the USDA](#)

January 18, 2018 – by Doug Sombke (Argus Leader/South Dakota Farmers Union) Our esteemed U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released a report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. While it is hard to get excited over any government ...

[Velocys: Envia Seeks EPA Approval to Generate D7 RINs](#)

January 17, 2018 –by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) Velocys plc has announced that Envia Energy, the joint venture plant that utilizes its technology, has applied for a fuel pathway approval under the Renewable Fuel Standard to produce D7 cellulosic ...

[California-Trump Administration Fuel-Efficiency Talks Intensify](#)

January 17, 2018 – by David Shepardson (Reuters) California and the Trump administration will hold a series of new talks over fuel efficiency rules as the auto industry still hopes for a deal to retain nationwide requirements.

Officials from the California ...

[RFS Standstill — Dinneen: Oil, Ethanol Meetings Not Scheduled Yet, Likely Not Constructive](#)

January 14, 2018 – by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) President Donald Trump's administration and some members of Congress want oil and ethanol interests to just get along and work out their differences on the Renewable Fuel Standard. But ...

[RFS Roundup: Economists Largely Agree RINs Not Wreaking Havoc on Refining Industry](#)

January 14, 2018 – by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study

Institute) ... The argument is roughly – increased biofuels mandates lead RINs to spike in cost, translating to billions in compliance costs, particularly for small refiners. While somewhat logical, ...

[U.S. Regulators Meet with California on Fate of Vehicle Fuel Rules](#)

January 12, 2018 – by David Shepardson (Reuters) Senior U.S. government officials held talks in recent weeks with California’s Air Resources Board (CARB) to discuss the goal of maintaining one set of national requirements for automakers, a move that will ...

[Play it Conservative](#)

January 8, 2018 –by Art Cullen (The Storm Lake Times) ... Markets and Nature are so large, and the Iowa budget is so small. We would be better off to leave water quality funding — that is, writing a ...

[ANALYSIS-Can’t Please Everyone: Trump Energy Policy Riles Competing Sectors](#)

January 5, 2018 – by Timothy Gardner (Reuters) ... Another political flashpoint has been the administration’s waffling over proposed changes to biofuels policy.

Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency initially entertained a plan from oil refiners to upend regulations requiring them to blend ...

[What Exactly Is a RIN?](#)

January 4, 2018 – (Southern Farm Network Today) Texas Senator Ted Cruz recently proposed to put a cap on the price of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) as a way to control the cost for refiners that blend renewable fuels into ...

[Rick Santorum: Refiners Attack President Trump at Their Peril](#)

January 3, 2018 – by Rick Santorum (Washington Examiner/Americans for Energy

Security and Innovation) ... But some petroleum companies seem to be taking their influence for granted, and that could prove their undoing with a White House that is known ...

[Summary of Accomplishments](#)

January 3, 2018 – by Brian Jennings (American Coalition for Ethanol/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... ACE believes the best way to grow demand well into the future is to harness the low-carbon, high-octane value of ethanol. That's why we were very ...

[Delivering 'Big League'](#)

January 3, 2018 – by Emily Skor (Growth Energy/Ethanol Producer Magazine) ... While we haven't yet achieved Reid vapor pressure (RVP) parity for E15 and higher blends, we made dramatic headway by broadening our base of supporters and positioning retailers ...

[Big Oil Misleading Iowans Again](#)

January 3, 2018 –by Monty Shaw (Iowa Renewable Fuels Association/Des Moines Register) About a year ago, an Iowa front group for Big Oil tried to trick former state legislators into signing letters to the editor that sounded “pro-ethanol” but ...

[Cruz Taps Texas Mistrust of Ethanol](#)

January 3, 2018 – by James Osborne (Houston Chronicle) Attack on federal biofuels mandate provides chance to appeal to base — ... But for the junior senator, facing re-election this year as Democrats show new swagger in the age of Trump, ethanol ...

[A New Years Resolution for EPA: Do Your Job!](#)

January 3, 2018 – by Doug Sombke (South Dakota Farmers Union/Biofuels Digest) ... I am referring to the mandatory requirements in the Clean Air Act that

EPA enforce section 202 (l), the “clean octane” provision designed to reduce the use of ...

[How Refiners Can Lower the High Price of Renewable Fuel Credits: Invest](#)

December 29, 2017 – by James C. Greenwood (Biotechnology Innovation Organization/The Hill) ... The refiners want to lower the price of renewable identification numbers, or RINs, which are the credits they must accumulate to prove compliance with the program — ...

[Inside Insight](#)

December 27, 2017 – by Lisa Gibson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) To kick off the new year, we rounded up a few experts to discuss five main industry topics: exports, policy, production, finance and technology. Find out what they said. — As ...

[Editorial: Keep Biofuel Benefits Flowing](#)

December 27, 2017 –(Wisconsin State Journal) ... A study conducted for the U.S. Agriculture Department found corn ethanol’s life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, by 2022, will be 43 percent lower than gasoline baseline emissions if ethanol plants continue as usual. If ethanol ...

[Bioeconomy Curves and Slides, Snakes and Ladders](#)

December 27, 2017 – by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Over the years we’ve all seen a lot of curveballs in the advanced bioeconomy. You see companies like Valero, which lobby the United States Congress with unbridled intensity to get rid ...

[Cruz Proposal Could Harm Corn Ethanol, Analysis Finds](#)

December 26, 2017 – by Todd Neeley (DTN/KTIC) Capping the price of biofuel credits at 10 cents would essentially eliminate the Renewable Fuel Standard

mandate for biodiesel and possibly hurt corn-based ethanol, according to an analysis by farmdoc at the ...

[Time to Reform Renewable Fuel Policies for the Public Interest](#)

December 26, 2017 – by Aaron Smith and Vernon Smith (The Hill) ... But while cellulosic biofuel can be produced from inedible plant sources such as switchgrass and corn stover, currently no commercially viable technology exists to produce it. The ...

[Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Grain Sorghum Oil Pathways](#)

December 26, 2017 – (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking provides notice and an opportunity to comment on the lifecycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with biofuels that are produced from grain sorghum oil extracted at ...

[Top 17 for 2017](#)

December 26, 2017 – by Helena Tavares Kennedy (Biofuels Digest) 2017 was a roller coaster year. There was a paradigm shift in biofuels, technology advancements, innovations abounded, politics chaotic. Some companies shut down and disappeared like the Hobo vanishing in ...

[Ex-Industry Lobbyists Win Top Jobs in Agencies They Once Fought](#)

December 22, 2017 – by Jennifer A Dlouhy and Jesse Hamilton (Bloomberg) ... In his first year as president, Trump studded his cabinet with people who previously fought to undermine what some see as the traditional missions of the agencies ...

[GAO to Look at Social Cost of Carbon](#)

December 22, 2017 – by Arianna Skibell (E&E News) An independent government watchdog has agreed to examine how the Trump administration uses the social

cost of carbon, the metric used to calculate the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

[The Biofuels Industry Reacts to White House RFS Meetings](#)

December 22, 2017 – by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) President Trump has hosted two meetings in recent weeks with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and others focused on the Renewable Fuel Standard and renewable identification numbers (RINs). Those representing the ...

Latest in Federal Litigation



Divestment, the VW settlement and summaries of ongoing litigation.

Federal litigation news sometimes overlaps with Federal regulation or legislation items, so check all sections.

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

[Bill de Blasio: This Is Why New York Is Suing and Divesting from Big Oil](#)

January 14, 2018 – by Bill de Blasio (New York City Mayor/Washington Post) ... America's largest city, 8.5 million strong, is taking decisive action on two separate fronts. We are demanding compensation from those who profit from climate change. And ...

[2017 Wrap-Up: Maintaining the Status Quo](#)

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[VW Settlement Should Fund Clean Air Today — Not Years Down the Road](#)

January 3, 2018 – by Allen Schaeffer (Diesel Technology Forum/The Hill) ... The Sierra Club's has offered a one size, all-electrification-fits-all recommendation — that would just be another bad choice that would actually lead to dirtier air for a longer time. There ...

[Meet the Lawyer Trying to Make Big Oil Pay for Climate Change](#)

January 2, 2018 – by Geoff Dembicki (Vice.com) The attorney who won a \$200 billion settlement from tobacco companies in the 90s has set his sights on an even bigger target. When you want to sue the largest, most ...

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