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2020 Election Action Underway

Watch our new category [2020 Election Activities](#) for Presidential campaigning, as well as House, Senate and local/regional election activities. As always, the category [White House](#) focuses on Presidential involvement with biofuels.

Policy

There's lots of overlap with policies, legislation, regulations and litigation. Find articles about [policy developments](#) in the US, other countries and states [here](#). For details, click on the name of the country or state that appears along the right margin of our [website](#).

Latest Federal Legislation Posts



With the 116th Congress underway, legislation is tumbling in.

Advanced Biofuels USA representatives met **Kathy Castor (D-FL)** chair of the new climate change committee and discussed with her staff the role biofuels can play in achieving the goals of the [Green New Deal](#), climate change mitigation, pollution control, octane enhancement and energy security. [Carbon taxes](#) remain in the news. Legislation promoting [octane](#) and championed by General Motors is not trusted to lead to increased use of cleanest, cheapest octane from ethanol according to many industry experts. Hope for [tax credit](#) extenders legislation? Scroll down for details.

Find lists of related articles linked on the website posts.

For more legislative news (including Executive Orders), [click here](#). Scroll down for Regulations and Litigation news.

[Biofuels Are Key to Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions](#)

by Arlin E. Gyberg (StarTribune) The biofuels industry over the last 30 years has produced more product using less energy and water and contributes far less

carbon-dioxide emissions than petroleum fuels. — Across Minnesota, about 25 ethanol and biodiesel plants generate about \$5 billion in combined economic output. Such biofuels may also ...

February 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[The Green New Deal Is Generating Lots of Left-Wing Enthusiasm. But Not Every Democrat Is on Board.](#)

by Dino Grandoni (Washington Post) ... But fault lines within the Democratic caucus were already visible before the end of the day, with some members urging caution about setting vague and, at times, impossible-to-achieve goals to only fall short. And perhaps most importantly, the plan has yet to get the formal ...

February 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Lisa Murkowski Sees 'Green New Deal' as Opportunity to Push Stalled Energy Bill](#)

by Josh Siegel (Washington Examiner) Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said Wednesday the push for a “Green New Deal” could provide an opportunity for her to revive a comprehensive energy bill she co-authored that would be the first update to the country’s energy policies from Congress in a decade. “There is a ...

February 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Bustos Helps Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Boost Ethanol Production and Combat Climate Change](#)

(Office of Congresswoman Cheri Bustos) Today (February 14, 2019), Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (IL-17) helped introduce the Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act. This bipartisan legislation

would implement strategies that help ethanol producers develop carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. Specifically, USE IT simplifies the permitting process for the construction of carbon ...

February 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol Blog: Ethanol Industry Not Impressed with General Motors' Push on Octane Standard Legislation](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) While General Motors representative Dan Nicholson indicated this week it was important for the ethanol industry to get behind legislation to set a national octane standard — starting with a 95 research octane number, or RON — two officials with the preeminent ethanol plant ...

February 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Extending that Olive Branch](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Energy and Commerce ranking member Greg Walden and Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee ranking member John Shimkus reached out last night (February 13, 2019) on climate change in a letter to Chairman Frank Pallone and subcommittee Chairman Paul Tonko. The pair lays out their ...

February 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Wall Street Is More Than Willing to Fund the Green New Deal](#)

by Katia Dmitrieva and Emily Chasan (Bloomberg BusinessWeek) Investing in the environment is already a \$12 trillion market. Now markets are just looking for guidance from Congress. — ... But those worried about where the rest of the

money will come from are forgetting one major, surprisingly enthusiastic player: Wall Street.

February 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Advanced Biofuel Producers Ask Congress to Extend Tax Credits](#)

by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) A group of advanced biofuel producers are urging leaders of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means to extend two tax credits that are critical to the development and deployment of advanced biofuels. On Feb. 7, Aemetis, Enerkem, Fiberight, Fulcrum Bioenergy, LanzaTech, Novozymes and ...

February 14, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[General Motors to Ethanol: Focus on 95 Octane Fuel Standard, or “Miss the Window altogether”](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) In Florida, General Motors VP Dan Nicholson told delegates at the National Ethanol Conference that “High octane is essential to realize better efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions,” but warned the US ethanol industry to get behind the 95 octane fuel standard, warning that 98 RON is ...

February 13, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[New Green Deal Calls for Ag to Be ‘Greenhouse Gas Free’](#)

by Don Jenkins (Capital Press) The New Green Deal introduced last week by Democrats in the U.S. House and Senate does not propose banning cow

flatulence, but it does strike at something that powers farm production — diesel fuel. The 14-page resolution calls for agriculture to be “greenhouse gas free” ...

February 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Reps Dave Loebsack, Darin LaHood Lead Push for Multi-Year Biodiesel Tax Extension](#)

by Joe Hand (River Cities Reader) Representatives Dave Loebsack and Darin LaHood today led a bipartisan group of their colleagues in calling for a multi-year extension of the biodiesel tax credit. In a letter to House Leadership, the lawmakers called for swift action in the House to ensure our farmers and ...

February 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Republican Lawmakers Face Pressure to Propose ‘Green New Deal’ Alternative](#)

by Josh Siegel (Washington Examiner) Republicans who want to combat climate change say their party should avoid the temptation of rejecting the progressive “Green New Deal” without proposing an alternative. “If the Green New Deal goes down in flames and gets totally discredited, the climate issue is still out there,” said ...

February 11, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Senators Intro “USE IT” \(“Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies”\) Act](#)

(Politico’s Morning Energy) Senate EPW Chairman John Barrasso and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse reintroduced their bipartisan carbon capture legislation Thursday. The bill , dubbed the “Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative

Technologies Act,” would support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, as well as support collaboration of carbon capture, utilization, and ...

February 8, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[2. The Green New Deal Resolution Is Here](#)

by Mike Allen and Alexi McCammond (Axios) Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) have unveiled their Green New Deal resolution — a call to arms on climate and jobs that’s long on ambition, but lacking in details and a political path to becoming policy. Why it matters: It opens ...

February 7, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Farmers Nearing Crisis Push back on Trump Trade Policies](#)

by Ryan McCrimmon (Politico) President Donald Trump’s trade war is magnifying some of the toughest farm conditions since the crisis that bankrupted thousands of farmers in the 1980s — and threatening a constituency crucial to his reelection hopes. The president’s trade policies have sent U.S. agricultural exports plunging, exacerbating already difficult ...

February 7, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Early Version of Ocasio-Cortez Green New Deal Touts Clean Power](#)

by Ari Natter and Katia Dmitrieva (Bloomberg) Draft of plan calls for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions; Final Ocasio-Cortez resolution expected to be released soon — Guaranteed jobs, health care, and housing are in a draft of the Green New Deal environmental package set to be unveiled by Democrats this week, but the proposal doesn’t ...

February 7, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Greens Grasp for Silver Lining in Trump's Infrastructure Pitch](#)

by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) ... "While we have fought against this administration's efforts to gut protections for clean air and water, roll-back efforts to address climate change and lease public lands for oil drilling and mining, infrastructure is an opportunity for everyone in Washington to work together to achieve the ...

February 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Matsui Introduces Legislation that Pushes Back on the Trump Administrations Attempts to Roll Back the Fuel Economy and Vehicle Emissions Standards](#)

(Office of Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA 6th)) Today (February 5, 2019), Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA) led 19 of her House Energy & Commerce Committee colleagues in introducing the Clean and Efficient Cars Act of 2019, which would preserve fuel economy and vehicle emissions standards that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save ...

February 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Congress Retains Most Energy Programs in 2018 Farm Bill through Fiscal Year 2023](#)

by Steve Hanson (U.S. Energy Information Administration) On December 20, 2018, the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) was signed into law, continuing federal support to a number of renewable electricity and bioenergy-related programs. Authorizations in the 2018 Farm Bill cover fiscal years (FY) 2019 through 2023, during which time energy ..

February 3, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Octane on 'Sesame Street'](#)

by Doug Durante (Ethanol Producer Magazine/Clean Fuels Development Coalition) Striving for higher-octane fuels shouldn't mean saying goodbye to the RFS. —... Why is the quest for high-octane fuels to reduce petroleum consumption and increase efficiency in vehicles paired with getting rid of the Renewable Fuel Standard? In the waning hours of the ...

January 28, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[World Energy and Valero Lead Rebound in Biofuels M&A: 2018 Review](#)

by Bruce Comer (Ocean Park/Biofuels Digest) Convergence reigns as the North American biofuels industry witnesses a resurgence in mergers and acquisitions, including exceptionally large deals — Merger and acquisition (M&A) activity in biofuels picked up considerably in 2018 after a slowdown in 2017, and by historic standards, the deals grew considerably in ...

January 22, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[From Greenspan to Yellen, Economic Brain Trust Backs Carbon Tax](#)

by Jennifer A Dlouhy (Bloomberg) Strategy cheered by economists who served last six presidents; Endorsement could give boost to carbon tax-and-dividend plan — An all-star lineup of economists, from Alan Greenspan to Paul Volcker, is endorsing a plan to combat climate change by slapping a tax on greenhouse gas emissions and then distributing the ...

January 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[A Sensible Approach to Climate Change Policy](#)

(Solutions from the Land) ... That opening now allows for the presentation and consideration of a more centered and pragmatic approach like that promoted by Solutions from the Land (SfL) and the other members of the North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA). NACSAA is a producer-led alliance focused on utilizing climate-smart ...

January 17, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[House Bill Would Repeal CAFE Standards:](#)

(Bergeson & Campbell) On January 10, 2019, Representative Roger Williams (R-TX) introduced a bill (H.R. 431) that would repeal the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. CAFE standards are set by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA. President Trump last year proposed to freeze CAFE standards at ...

January 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[New Congress, New House Push for Environmental Civil Rights](#)

by David Schultz (Bloomberg) Newly Democratic House may pursue environmental justice legislation; Many freshman lawmakers cite the issue as top priority — The new 116th Congress may spend more time examining the intersection of race and the environment, and specifically look at how poor and minority communities are affected by climate change. Two dozen ...

January 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Carper Meets Automakers](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) (Senator Tom) Carper (D-DE) told reporters he met Monday with automotive executives and encouraged them to aggressively push for unified fuel efficiency standards and tax incentives. "If the auto industry is serious about a 50-state deal, you've got to lobby," Carper said of his ...

January 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ag Policy Blog Senate Ag Committee to Hold Hearing on Climate Change](#)

by Chris Clayton (DTN The Progressive Farmer) Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., told reporters Sunday at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting that his committee will schedule hearings on trade and climate change in the near future. On climate, Roberts said the hearing will look at various issues.

January 15, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[What's in a Green New Deal?](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Environmental activists and progressives rallying around the "Green New Deal" are hoping to develop details for the plan that will help turn it into a policy platform for Democrats ahead of the 2020 election, Pro's Zack Colman reports this morning. That means one of ...

January 11, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

Latest on Federal Regulation



Concerns that EPA's delay in publishing proposed [E15 Reid Vapor Pressure regulations](#) will preclude E15 waiver certainty for 2019 summer driving are compounded by the effects of the federal government shutdown. [Small refinery exemptions](#) still causing heart burn. In other RFS news, [eRINs](#) are gaining attention. Ethanol remains a victim of the continuing [trade dispute](#) with China. And more.

See also articles in Legislation and Litigation for overlapping topics.

[Republican Backlash against Trump EPA Pick Fueled by 'Biofuel Reset'](#)

by Humeyra Pamuk and Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) EPA acting administrator Andrew Wheeler rejected a proposal from his staff that would have reduced the ambition of the nation's biofuel policy over the next three years, arguing the targeted range it included for annual ethanol consumption was too low, according to two sources familiar ...

February 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[USDA to EPA: What About Plan B on E15? USDA's Censky Raises Possibility EPA Could Use Discretion on E15 Enforcement](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) As the EPA races the clock to complete a rule allowing year-round E15 sales ahead of the summer driving season, if the rule isn't done by June 1, the agency may have to resort to a plan B, USDA's second in command told reporters ...

February 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Listen to 3 Renewable Fuels CEOs Talk about the Future of Biodiesel and Ethanol](#)

(National Biodiesel Board/FuelsFix) This year's National Biodiesel Conference at the Marriott Marquis in San Diego, CA was a resounding success, with biodiesel advocates, enthusiasts, and industry experts from around the country coming together to discuss the future and potential of this versatile biofuel. One of the highlights of the event occurred on the last day, ...

February 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Could Immediately Increase Volume of Low-Carbon Biofuels by Over 50 Percent](#)

by Jesse Stolark (Energy and Environmental Study Institute) The EPA is leaving 200 million gallons of cellulosic biofuels on the table, according to the newly formed Biomass Power Coalition, a group of biomass trade organizations, biomass power producers, and supporters (EESI is a supporting member). That's nearly half the total volume of ...

February 17, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[RFS Power Coalition Launched by BPA, ABC, ERC](#)

(Biomass Power Association, American Biogas Council and Energy Recovery Council/Biomass Magazine) Three trade associations representing renewable electricity producers today announced the launch of the RFS Power Coalition. The coalition's purpose is to get the EPA to implement a law passed by Congress in 2007 which mandates the inclusion of qualifying renewable ...

February 13, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Open the Door to Higher Blends](#)

by Doug Sombke (South Dakota Farmers Union and Farmers Union Enterprise/Biofuels Digest) ... The reality is that the RFS is going backwards, we have effectively capped the use of corn ethanol in the United States, and the EPA continues to play lip service to the President they work for and the public ...

February 13, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Reader Opinion: Let's Be Champions for Ethanol](#)

by John Poston MN(R) District: 09A (Brainerd Dispatch) ... Over the past five years, farm income has fallen by 46 percent. One thing that all Americans can do to help is use a biofuel that we make and sell right here at home. E15, a 15 percent ethanol blend, is made from ...

February 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Renewable Fuels Association Kicks Off Awareness Campaign for E15](#)

(Convenience Store News) The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) launched an awareness campaign in support of E15 fuel with the launch of a new consumer-facing website and digital ads in The Washington Post. The campaign's goal is to educate consumers and policymakers about the benefits of the fuel ahead of this year's summer driving ...

February 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Exclusive: U.S. EPA May Issue E15 Gasoline Plan without Biofuel Credit Trade Limits – Sources](#)

by Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering releasing its draft proposal to expand sales of higher ethanol blends of gasoline without including simultaneous measures it promised the oil industry to curb biofuel credit speculation, according to three sources familiar with the matter. The move would help the agency ...

February 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[RFA's Cooper: Ethanol Industry 'Delivering Huge Wins' Despite 'Tough Year' in 2018](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) President and CEO Geoff Cooper told nearly 1,000 National Ethanol Conference attendees today that while the U.S. ethanol industry had a “tough year” in 2018, it “continued to deliver huge wins for consumers,” including lower gas prices, cleaner air, a more secure energy supply, ...

February 12, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Retailers Say Now Is the Time to Move to Higher Ethanol Blends](#)

(Solutions from the Land) In its 2019 Annual Energy Outlook issued this month, the DOE's Energy Information Administration offers projections that make clear the importance of significantly increasing ethanol blends into the nation's transportation fuel over the next several decades. The report predicts that gasoline and diesel fuel retail prices will increase by ...

February 11, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Pushing Water Quality Trading to Address Nutrients](#)

(Agri-Pulse) The Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging states to develop water quality trading programs to tackle nutrient pollution, which has become an increasingly visible issue in farm country. In a memorandum to EPA regional administrators, Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross said the agency wants to move toward more market-based solutions to address ...

February 11, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[RFA Releases 2019 Ethanol Industry Outlook, Pocket Guide](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) Today at the 24th annual National Ethanol Conference, the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) released its 2019 Ethanol Industry Outlook and Pocket Guide, known around the world as the go-to sources for reliable information and data on America's ethanol industry. The annual Outlook publication provides policymakers, regulators, consumers, the media, and renewable fuel ...

February 11, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[NACS \(National Association of Convenience Stores\) Favors Giving Consumers Options at the Pump](#)

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) For the National Association of Convenience Stores, selling E15 is a matter of giving consumers plenty of fuel options. "We like the optionality of being able to have lots legal choices and really sell what the consumer wants to buy," said Paige Anderson, NACS's director ...

February 7, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[QUOTE OF THE WEEK](#)

“The GHG emissions of petroleum are higher than the baseline estimates originally projected by EPA” That’s one finding in a new study by Life Cycle Associates. It’s also one reason biofuels entering the marketplace thanks to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) exceed EPA’s expectations for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions.

February 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[New Study: RFS2 Has Reduced GHG Emissions by 600 Million Metric Tons, Beating EPA Expectations](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) A new study released today finds that the expanded Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2) has been a tremendous success in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with nearly 600 million metric tons of GHG reduction since 2007. Actual GHG reductions under the RFS2 have far surpassed the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) original ...

February 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Commentary: Bring California’s Low-Carbon Wisdom to Washington, D.C.](#)

by Andy Foster (Capital Press/Aemetis Inc.) ... With the election behind us and new leadership in the House, it’s time to take another look at the IPCC warnings and examine bipartisan solutions that Congress can work toward — immediately. High on the list are biofuels, which offer low-cost energy without ...

February 6, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[EPA Chief Says Agency, California ‘Far Apart’ on Car Emissions](#)

by Ryan Beene, Jennifer A Dlouhy, and David R Baker (Bloomberg) Wheeler, Nichols signal little progress on auto MPG agreement; State shouldn't have authority on CO2 emissions, Wheeler says — U.S. and California officials agreed Monday on one thing about auto emissions standards: they're still miles from an agreement, with a crucial deadline ...

February 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Biofuels Group Growth Energy Sues U.S. EPA over Small Refinery Exemptions](#)

by Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) Biofuels group Growth Energy filed a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday, challenging the agency's renewable fuel mandate for 2019 as failing to address rising waived biofuel volumes. "EPA's inaction on addressing lost gallons due to small refinery exemptions in this rulemaking is a ...

February 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[RFA Asks EPA to Use Reset Rule to Restore Lost RFS Gallons](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) ... Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) CEO Geoff Cooper sent a letter to (Andrew) Wheeler this week to provide input on the agency's upcoming RFS reset proposal. RFA is asking Wheeler to use the reset rule as an opportunity to restore the RFS volumes that were "inappropriately erased" by granting ...

February 5, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[How Do Your Fuel Decisions Impact Our Environment?](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) EESI Policy Associate Jessie Stolark spoke on a roundtable panel about the health and environmental considerations of fuel choices, at the Iowa Renewable Fuels Summit on January 29. Below is an abbreviated version of her remarks at that presentation, which highlighted the benefits ...

February 3, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Biofuels Leaders Engage in RFS Discussion: “To 2022 and Beyond: Renewable Fuels in the Next Decade”](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The 2019 National Biodiesel Conference concluded Thursday with a panel discussion entitled “To 2022 and Beyond: Renewable Fuels in the Next Decade,” featuring renewable fuel industry leaders discussing the Renewable Fuel Standard and what is on the horizon for 2020. National Biodiesel Board chief operations officer Doug Whitehead moderated the ...

February 3, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol Industry Prepares for a ‘Crazy Year’ Trying to Sway the Trump Administration](#)

by John Siciliano (Washington Examiner) Ethanol producers are preparing for major action at the federal level in the months ahead, both in terms of litigation against Trump administration actions on the nation’s renewable fuel mandate and lobbying to finalize rules regarding the ethanol mandate. “You know, 2019 is going to be ...

January 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Interview: RFA Hoping EPA Will Be More Restrained on SREs](#)

by Jeff Barber (Opis Biofuels News) The U.S. ethanol industry, which spent most of 2018 dealing with the fallout from EPA's decision to allow a record number of small refineries to escape their Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) compliance obligations, believes the agency will take a more measured approach to exemption requests ...

January 29, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Burgeoning Biomethane: RNG Is a Partner, Not Competitor, to Ethanol](#)

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) Verbio has plans to further strengthen the already-expanding renewable natural gas market in the U.S., having purchased DuPont's cellulosic ethanol plant. A transformation is underway in Iowa. Last year, Verbio North America Corp., the U.S. subsidiary of German bioenergy producer Verbio Vereinigte BioEnergie AG, purchased ...

January 28, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Review Finds No Consensus Among Fuel Studies – Major Implications for Health, Air Quality](#)

by Jessie Stolark (Environmental and Energy Study Institute) A recent review of nearly 100 different peer-reviewed vehicle emission studies, by the independent consulting group Future Fuel Strategies, found that there is no consensus in the literature regarding the health effects of ethanol-blended fuel. Despite the fact that ethanol is a cleaner-burning ...

January 27, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ready for Take Off? Aviation Biofuels Past, Present, and Future](#)

by David Hitchcock (Atlantic Council) ... However, the importance of powering the aviation sector (both military and commercial) through sustainable fuels cannot be overstated. David Hitchcock's paper, "Ready for Takeoff? Aviation Biofuels Past, Present, and Future," provides a keen look at the history of biofuels, current uses of biofuel, and investments ...

January 26, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Rounds: Corn Ethanol Production Plays Important Role in South Dakota's Economy](#)

by Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) (Brookings Register) Corn and corn ethanol production are vital components of South Dakota's economy. The corn ethanol industry supports thousands of jobs in our state and contributes a significant amount of revenue to our local communities. Corn ethanol has taken a hit in recent years, ...

January 25, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Moving the RFS Forward](#)

by Amie Simpson (Brownfield Ag News) There is a false notion that the Renewable Fuel Standard ends in 2022, but that is not the case. Geoff Cooper, president and CEO of the Renewable Fuels Association, says even those in the industry sometimes misunderstand the law. "Through 2022, volumes are specified by Congress, after 2022 ...

January 25, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Thune Meets With Acting EPA Administrator](#)

(Office of Senator John Thune) “Acting Administrator Wheeler is committed to the president’s efforts to provide greater regulatory relief and certainty to the American people, including through the EPA’s rewrite of the WOTUS rule and by providing for the year-round sale of E15.” — U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) today met with ...

January 25, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Biofuels Leaders Engage in RFS Discussion](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) The 2019 National Biodiesel Conference concluded Thursday with a panel discussion entitled “To 2022 and Beyond: Renewable Fuels in the Next Decade,” featuring renewable fuel industry leaders discussing the Renewable Fuel Standard and what is on the horizon for 2020. READ MORE includes AUDIO Takeaways from national biodiesel conference ...

January 25, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[UAI: Test Fuels Are Not Representative of Real-World Fuels](#)

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) An analysis commissioned by the Urban Air Initiative raises questions about studies used by U.S. EPA to model ethanol’s emissions. The independent analysis, completed by Future Fuel Strategies, looked at nearly 100 vehicle emissions studies, and concluded that the test fuels used often do not ...

January 24, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Koda Energy Urges EPA to Process eRIN applications](#)

by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) Shakopee, Minnesota-based Koda Energy LLC is urging the U.S. EPA to promptly process applications to allow biomass power facilities to participate in the Renewable Fuel Standard program by generating e-renewable identification numbers (eRINs). On Jan. 21, Stacy Cook, president of Koda Energy, send a letter to ...

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[World Energy and Valero Lead Rebound in Biofuels M&A: 2018 Review](#)

by Bruce Comer (Ocean Park/Biofuels Digest) Convergence reigns as the North American biofuels industry witnesses a resurgence in mergers and acquisitions, including exceptionally large deals — Merger and acquisition (M&A) activity in biofuels picked up considerably in 2018 after a slowdown in 2017, and by historic standards, the deals grew considerably in ...

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[Independent Study Finds Vehicle Emission Testing Is Not Reliable](#)

(Urban Air Initiative) A new study finds that many of the test fuels used in emissions research studies do not reflect the makeup of consumer fuels, limiting the ability of ethanol to be used to reduce emissions and improve vehicle efficiency. The Urban Air Initiative (UAI) is pleased to announce ...

January 21, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[RFA Publishes E15 Countdown Clock, Calculator and FAQs](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) E15. Clean. Affordable. Domestic. Fuel. There's been a lot of talk recently about "E15," a biofuel blend of gasoline that contains 15

percent ethanol, a product that comes from crops grown by American farmers. E15 burns cleaner and cooler than gasoline, lowers gas prices, and reduces oil imports. Unfortunately, ...

January 19, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Ethanol Is the Safe Option](#)

by Doug Sombke (South Dakota Farmers Union/Tri-State Livestock News) ... Well, let's hope we don't see the price at the pumps go up. Instead, let's use more ethanol. What I'm suggesting is oil companies increase the amount of ethanol blended into gasoline – from the mandatory 10 to 30 percent. And, ...

January 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[The Energy 202: Potential 2020 Candidates Test Climate Messages on Trump's EPA Pick](#)

by Gino Grandoni (Washington Post) ... Nominally, the hearing was convened to consider the nomination of former coal lobbyist and ex-Senate aide Andrew Wheeler to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. ... In the past six months alone the EPA under Wheeler has proposed relaxing emission limits on power plants and freezing them for ...

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[RFA Asks EPA to Separate Year-Round E15 Provisions from RIN Reform Measures in Upcoming Proposal](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) With the government shutdown threatening to further delay approval of year-round sales of E15 (gasoline containing 15%

ethanol), the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) is urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to focus strictly on year-round E15 provisions in its forthcoming proposed rule and address RIN reform measures in a separate ...

January 18, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[U.S. Automakers Push for Deal on Fuel Efficiency Rules](#)

by David Shepardson (Reuters) Executives at the major U.S. automakers are pressing the Trump administration and California to agree on standards for fuel efficiency and carbon emissions through 2025, as risks increase that a deadline for setting national standards will pass without a deal. Automakers are already entering the time frame when ...

January 16, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

Open for Public Comment

[Proposed Changes to EIA-819 Monthly Biofuels, Fuel Oxygenates, and Motor Gasoline Blending Components Report COMMENT DEADLINE: February 25, 2019](#)

(U.S. Department of Energy) On December 27, 2018, a Federal Register Notice (FRN) was published announcing proposed survey changes to the Petroleum Supply Reporting System. These changes enhance collection and reporting of biofuels a number of ways: EIA-819 Monthly Oxygenate Report will be expanded to incorporate EIA-22M Monthly Biodiesel Production ...

[*MORE OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTS*](#)

Latest in Federal Litigation



California's [Low Carbon Fuel Standard](#) is upheld on appeal, with continued litigation on EPA's "[small](#)" [refinery exemptions](#) and reallocation of the [waived gallons](#) and new litigation on sustainability issues related to crop-based feedstock.

For more on federal litigation, [click here](#).

[National Wildlife Federation Files Lawsuit over Habitat Destruction from Biofuels Policy](#)

by Mike Saccone (National Wildlife Federation) The National Wildlife Federation, represented by Earthjustice, filed a lawsuit today against the Environmental Protection Agency alleging that it illegally approved expanded volume production of largely corn- and soy-based biofuels despite evidence that such production destroys habitat, degrades water quality and increases harmful greenhouse gas ...

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[Biofuels Group Growth Energy Sues U.S. EPA over Small Refinery Exemptions](#)

by Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) Biofuels group Growth Energy filed a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday, challenging the agency's renewable fuel mandate for 2019 as failing to address rising waived biofuel volumes. "EPA's inaction on addressing lost gallons due to small refinery exemptions in this rulemaking is a ...

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[Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Upholds California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard](#)

(Environmental Defense Fund/WebWire) The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decisive ruling upholding California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard – the state's landmark program to reduce climate pollution from the fuel used in cars and trucks. The court sided with California on all issues in the case, dismissed challenges to the Low Carbon ...

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For example, a suggestion for taxing the non-renewable part of transportation fuels is [here](#).

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Reporters (and those who read their articles and make purchasing and investing

decisions based on them) may not have much background in renewable energy or transportation fuels and engines, let alone the intricacies and nuances of the places *where the rubber of policy meets the road of legislation, regulations and litigation. Heck, even the people working on those laws and regulations could use a refresher.*

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Joanne Ivancic, Executive Director

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