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2020 Election Action

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. Here are a few examples:

[O'Rourke Mostly Gets a Pass for His Lack of Specifics](#)

by Edward-Isaac Dovere (The Atlantic) ... The first woman who asked a question wanted to know about ethanol. E10 or E15? ... Beto O'Rourke's full answer went on for a bit. "How ...

[Presidential Candidate Sen. Cory Booker Visiting Iowa This Weekend](#)

(WeAreIowa.com) ... Senator Booker held a meet-and-greet in Indianola at the Annelise Winery Saturday evening. He spoke about his platform including that of green technology. He is a leading proponent of the ...

[The Trailer: Jay Inslee Is Cheerfully Campaigning and Issuing Apocalyptic Warnings](#)

by David Weigel (Washington Post) ... On Monday morning, when Washington Gov. Jay Inslee visited the Seminole Springs mobile home park, the husks of cars and houses were still sitting in pools of melted ...

[Washington House Passes Clean-Fuels Legislation Sought by Inslee](#)

by Joseph O'Sullivan and Hal Bernton (Seattle Times) Washington House Democrats approved clean-fuels legislation Tuesday night after overcoming fierce Republican opposition that was expressed in an hourslong floor debate. House Bill ...

[Pressed by Climate Activists, Senate Democrats Plan to 'Go on Offense'](#)

by Coral Davenport and Sheryl Gay Stolberg (New York Times) Facing a showdown vote as early as this month over the embattled "Green New Deal," Senate Democrats are preparing a counteroffensive ...

[New Climate Resolution](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Senate Democrats remain divided on the Green New Deal as they face a vote on the nonbinding resolution before August recess. Their solution? Come ...

[Iowa Operatives Say Ethanol Worship Is Now as Corny as The West Wing](#)

by Ben Jacobs (The Guardian) ... Tim Gannon, the Democratic nominee for Iowa secretary of agriculture in 2018, told the Guardian the idea of ethanol as a dealbreaker in the state ...

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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](#).

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Federal Legislation



Green New Deal has got people talking. That in itself is quite an accomplishment. Now to get those conversations to include renewable fuels for transportation....

[Carbon tax](#) or price of some kind is still on the table.

[Tax credit](#) extenders legislation has been introduced. 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.

[Rural America Is Ready for Some Sort of a New Deal, Preferably Green](#)

by Art Cullen (The Guardian) Here in farming country we have the opportunity to rethink our approach to renewable energy and food production — ... Meanwhile, we're losing our precious topsoil and polluting our rivers – killing the Gulf of Mexico in the process – as we chase ever-higher corn yields in ...

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

[McConnell Tees up Vote on Green New Deal](#)

by Jordain Carney (The Hill) Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is setting up a fight over the Green New Deal later this month. McConnell, wrapping up the Senate's work for the week, scheduled a procedural vote on the progressive resolution for after the chamber returns from a one-week recess. ... McConnell initially ...

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

[The Kids of March Are on Strike](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Youth activists concerned by the threat of climate change will skip class across more than 100 countries today to

call for greater climate action. The U.S. effort is inspired by 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg, who held weekly strikes to protest outside the Swedish ...

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

[Senate GOP Expected to Force Vote on Green New Deal in March](#)

by Jordain Carney (The Hill) Senate Republicans will bring the Green New Deal resolution to the floor as they try to jam Democrats on the progressive proposal. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), a member of Senate GOP leadership, said that he expected Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) would bring the resolution up for a vote the week ...

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

[NBB Urges Lawmakers to Extend Biodiesel Tax Credit](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) “Temporary Policy in the Internal Revenue Code” was the title of a House Ways and Means Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee hearing this week where the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) submitted written testimony urging lawmakers to immediately extend the biodiesel and renewable diesel tax incentive to end uncertainty. Kurt Kovarik, NBB Vice ...

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

[Vox Argues The Media's Coverage of the GND Lacks Substance](#)

by Yoel Fessahaye and Monica Medina (Our Daily Planet) The Green New Deal has been the subject of an avalanche of media coverage. But other than the bumper sticker labels that have been applied to it — Socialism, Communism, Unrealistic, Infeasible, Unaffordable — what exactly is it? That is the \$64 ...

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

[Carbon Price Jailbreak?](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The Republican-backed Climate Leadership Council says it will have GOP co-sponsors for its carbon price initiative in the third quarter. CLC Chief Executive Ted Halstead wouldn't name names but said CLC is aiming at getting up to five Republicans to join the charge to put ...

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

[UPDATE 2-U.S. Senate to Vote on Green New Deal -Republican Leader](#)

by Susan Cornwell (Reuters) Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday the U.S. Senate would vote in coming weeks on the "Green New Deal," an ambitious Democratic environmental proposal that has become a lightning rod for Republican criticism. ... Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa called it the "green raw deal" and ...

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

[Green New Deal vs. Carbon Tax: A Clash of 2 Worldviews, Both Seeking Climate Action](#)

by Marianne Lavelle (Inside Climate News) The contest is elevating climate policy conversations on the campaign trail and in Washington. It could inspire compromises that bring together pieces of each. ... On one side are the student activists of the Sunrise Movement and Congress's new young firebrands; on the other, more moderate groups, including grassroots ...

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

[Grassley, Wyden Introduce Tax Extenders Bill](#)

by Erin Voegele (Biomass Magazine) On Feb. 28, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Ranking Member Ron Wyden, D-Ore., introduced legislation to extend 29 tax credits, including those that benefit producers of renewable diesel, second generation biofuels and bioenergy. According to information released by the Senate Committee on Finance, ...

March 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Paul, Grassley Introduce Fuel Choice and Deregulation Act of 2019](#)

(Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)) Today (February 27, 2019), U.S. Senators Rand Paul of Kentucky and Chuck Grassley of Iowa introduced the Fuel Choice and Deregulation Act of 2019(S.581), legislation that would remove burdensome regulations on domestic energy production. "The Fuel Choice and Deregulation Act provides new economic opportunity for Kentucky farmers ...

March 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Who Is Garret Graves? The Louisiana Lawmaker Newly Selected as the Top Republican on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis](#)

by Kelsey Taborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The Louisiana lawmaker newly selected as the top Republican on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis has a lifetime score of 3 percent from the League of Conservation Voters but has also cited climate change as one issue where he differs with his ...

March 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Finding Practical, Viable Solutions to a Changing Climate](#)

(Solutions from the Land) ...Unfortunately, the (Green New Deal) resolution comes with a lack of recognition for the importance of all forms of renewable energy. In focusing on no-carbon renewables like wind and solar, the measure fails to reference other near-term, low-cost, high-value renewable energy solutions like bioenergy. For example, ...

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

[Want a Green New Deal? Here's a Better One.](#)

(Washington Post) We favor a Green New Deal to save the planet. We believe such a plan can be efficient, effective, focused and achievable. The Green New Deal proposed by congressional Democrats does not meet that test. Its proponents, led by Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez ...

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

[Green for the Common Man](#)

by Douglas L. Faulkner and Gerard J. Ostheimer (Biofuels Digest) Out of the climate change cacophony, two notes that ring true for us are: 1) No climate fixes can be made without improving the lives of those in distressed rural areas; and, 2) Bio-based fuels and chemicals are needed to spur de-carbonization ...

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

[Republicans Shift on Climate](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) Republicans appear to be changing their tone and launching fewer attacks on climate science. Instead, some in the party have touted longstanding support for innovation to address the problem — a sign of the changing tides as they face pressure from the electorate and an ...

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

[Chairman DeFazio Announces Full Committee Hearing, “Examining How Federal Infrastructure Policy Could Help Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change”](#)

(U.S. House Committee on Transportation) Today, Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR) announced the Full Committee will hold a hearing titled, “Examining How Federal Infrastructure Policy Could Help Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change.” The hearing will examine the role the transportation sector plays in ...

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

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Federal Regulation



Concerns continue that EPA's delay in publishing proposed [E15 Reid Vapor Pressure regulations](#) will preclude E15 waiver certainty for 2019 summer driving. [Small refinery exemptions](#) added to trade [tariffs](#) are taking a stiff toll on ethanol demand and production. And the [RINs](#) issues related to all of that remain on a front burner.

Call it SAFE or [CAFE](#), no changes yet on the federal or California fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions regulations. And more. See also articles in Legislation and Litigation for overlapping topics.

[UAI's Studies Tell the Truth](#)

by Dave VanderGriend (Urban Air Institute/Ethanol Producer Magazine) The need for an updated fuel testing process. — Every time we fill our gas tanks, we are exposed to chemicals known to cause cancer. Think about how often that happens, and how a cleaner fuel is rarely an option. These toxic chemicals, known as ...

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

[U.S. Ethanol Market Sees First Sales Decline in Decades: Lower U.S. Demand, Plunge in Exports Made for Rough 2018.](#)

by Jim Spencer and Mike Hughlett (Star Tribune) ... As production increased and sales to foreign countries rose to record levels, profits went down roughly 20 cents per gallon. ... The domestic market for ethanol had stopped growing at the same time production hit a new record. Figures from the U.S. ...

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

[Ethanol Use Falls for First Time in 20 Years](#)

by John Herath (Farm Journal Media) RFA Blames Waivers for Refiners — Ethanol use in the United States last year fell for the first time since 1998, according to data from the Energy Information Administration. The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) is blaming that fall on waivers EPA granted to refiners allowing them ...

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

[EPA Grants More RFS Waivers, Undercuts Add'l Demand for Biofuels](#)

by Ron Kotrba (Biomass Magazine) U.S. EPA retroactively granted five new small refinery exemptions for 2017, releasing them from their obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard. The five new small refinery exemptions reduced the 2017 renewable volume obligation (RVO) for biomass-based diesel by an additional 48 million gallons. Previously granted exemptions ...

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

[NTSB to Prioritize Safe Shipment of Ethanol](#)

by Matt Thompson (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board recently released its Most Wanted List for 2019 and 2020, with a focus on the ethanol industry. According to the list, the safe shipment of hazardous materials—including ethanol and crude oil—can be achieved by upgrading current tank cars to ...

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

[Avenue 45Q](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) The Trump administration is developing guidance to help companies qualify for a built-out tax credit for carbon capture, utilization and storage — a welcome addition for industry officials and lawmakers who have complained the IRS is moving too slowly to implement the increased credit, ...

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

[EPA's Proposed Rule Changes Around Higher Ethanol Blends Draw Mixed Reactions](#)

by Danielle Romano (Convenience Store News) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing regulatory changes around higher ethanol blends, and they're drawing mixed reactions. ... "NACS is concerned that the proposed rulemaking would generate more problems than solutions," said Paige

Anderson, NACS' director of government relations. "We believe that EPA's proposal would ...

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

[U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard Is Not Working: Marathon CEO](#)

by David Gaffen and Erwin Seba (Reuters) The U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) laws are not working and there is an "opportunity for a reset" of the standard in Washington, Marathon Petroleum Corp Chief Executive Gary Heminger said on Tuesday. ... Heminger said U.S. refiners already rely on ethanol to boost ...

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

[U.S. EPA to Decide on 2017 Waivers from Biofuel Laws within Week](#)

by David Gaffen and Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will decide on the seven pending applications for small refinery waivers from the nation's biofuel laws for the 2017 calendar year in the next week, agency administrator Andrew Wheeler said on Monday. Once the 2017 applications are decided, the ...

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

[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Modifications to Fuel Regulations to Provide Flexibility for E15 and to Elements of the Renewable Identification Number Compliance System — COMMENTS DUE April 29, 2019](#)

(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) On March 12, 2019, EPA proposed regulatory changes to allow gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) to take advantage of the 1-psi Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. EPA is also proposing regulatory changes to ...

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

[Trump Won't Return to Negotiations with California on Fuel Efficiency Rollback, EPA's Andrew Wheeler Says](#)

by Josh Siegel (Washington Examiner) The Trump administration won't be returning to the negotiating table with California before finalizing a plan to roll back Obama-era fuel efficiency standards, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler said Monday. Wheeler, in an interview with the Washington Examiner, said the Trump administration won't compromise on its final ...

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

[EPA Wants Refinery Information Sealed Agency Asks Court Not to Disclose Waivers Brief, Documents to Public](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The EPA wants to keep from the public eye an opening brief and some records to be filed in a small-refinery waivers case, claiming in a court motion the information is subject to a protective order on confidential business information. The agency made the ...

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

[Throw Deep: Heard on the Floor at the Washington Sustainable Aviation Fuels Summit](#)

by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) ... Port of Seattle Commissioner Fred Felleman noted: “Secretary Mabus advised us to set a goal. If it’s good enough for the Navy, it’s good enough for SeaTac airport, and we’ve established a partnership with 13 airlines with a goal of moving to 10 percent renewable ...

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

[101 for Low Carbon Fuel Standard](#)

by Paul Greene (BioCycle Magazine/Montrose Environmental) California’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which grew out of the state’s Global Warming Solutions Act, is stimulating markets for biogas, including renewable natural gas — Biogas project developers and financiers are finding strong offtake opportunities selling their gas into the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) ...

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

[Biogas To RNG Projects: What, Why And How](#)

by Brad Pleima (BioCycle Magazine/EcoEngineers) With prices for renewable electricity low in many states, biogas producers are turning to the renewable natural gas marketplace. This road map is a valuable navigation tool. — There is a national trend to reposition biogas-producing assets into renewable fuel production facilities. Biogas is typically used to ...

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

[New EIA Data Confirms Ethanol Demand Destruction in 2018](#)

(Renewable Fuels Association) Total Ethanol Consumption and Average Blend Rate Both Saw Year-Over-Year Declines — Data released today by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reveals the extensive damage to 2018 ethanol demand that resulted from former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's egregious abuse of small refinery exemptions (SREs). Pruitt excused 48 refiners from ...

March 9, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Washington State Tackles Transportation Emissions](#)

by Jeremy Martin (Union of Concerned Scientists) ... The largest source of pollution in Washington state is transportation, which is another way to say burning petroleum-based fuels like gasoline and diesel. Tackling emissions from transportation requires policies that focus on vehicles and transportation fuels. Broad economy-wide measures like carbon pricing or ...

March 9, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Court Brief: EPA Strayed on RFS Waivers — EPA Changed Course on Small-Refinery Waivers Without Public Input](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The EPA broke away from Renewable Fuel Standard requirements for granting small-refinery waivers starting in May 2017 and continued to deny a congressional order regarding which refiners

qualify, according to a 97-page brief filed in a federal court in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. The ...

March 9, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Report: Feds' Biofuel Policy Produced Unintended Environmental Consequences](#)

(Public News Service) A new report says the federal Renewable Fuel Standard, created to spur ethanol production and cut air pollution, is responsible for a number of negative environmental impacts, including reduced water supplies in Texas and other drought-prone areas. Producing a single gallon of ethanol can require up to two thousand ...

March 9, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Exclusive: U.S. EPA Aims to Curb Biofuel Credit Speculation by Blocking Outsiders](#)

by Humeyra Pamuk (Reuters) The Environmental Protection Agency will attempt to stamp out speculation in the U.S. biofuel credit market by barring trading by non-industry players, publicizing large positions, and improving price transparency, a source familiar with the agency's proposals told Reuters on Thursday. ... For years, refiners have complained that the ...

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

[Ethanol Demand Boost from US EPA Lifting Summer E15 Ban Expected to Be Slow](#)

by Meghan Gordon (S&P Global Platts) Even if the Trump administration completes a policy change allowing year-round sales of higher ethanol blends in time for this summer's driving season, any major increase in demand may not materialize until summer 2020 because fuel stations saw the promised policy change as too uncertain ...

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

[White House Presses Automakers to Back Fuel-Efficiency Rollback](#)

by Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis (Washington Post) As the Trump administration races to roll back Obama's most ambitious climate rule, it lobbies to get industry on board — Trump officials thought they were doing the auto industry a favor when they decided to freeze gas mileage standards. But automakers aren't so sure. To ...

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

[Europe Needn't Fear E10 Ethanol Blends](#)

by James Cogan (Biofuels Digest) ... The ongoing battle to convince regulators that domestic crop based ethanol is climate friendly and free of adverse side effects is a roller coaster of highs and lows. It's not for the faint-hearted investor. But one single win for them could double the addressable market ...

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

[OPINION: Terminal Availability of E15 Grows as RVP Relief Nears](#)

by Robert White (Renewable Fuels Association/Ethanol Producer Magazine) When E15 (gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol) debuted in 2012, it was created at retail sites by using blender pumps to dilute E85 (fuel containing up to 85 percent denatured ethanol) with E10. Blender pump technology was not new; in fact, it had ...

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

[All in on Ethanol?](#)

by Kelsey Tamborrino (Politico's Morning Energy) EPA sent its rule that would allow the year-round sales of 15 percent ethanol fuel to the White House for review on Monday, a step that makes it more likely the agency will release a final rule before the summertime driving season starts, Pro's ...

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

[How Ethanol Threatens Energy Security](#)

by Pat Meehan (Washington Times) The blending of fuels puts needed small refineries in peril of extinction — Big oil manufacturers who can blend ethanol and oil in excess of their needs can sell that excess capacity as a credit to the smaller manufacturers who cannot produce it themselves. As a result, a ...

March 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Paul, Grassley Introduce Fuel Choice and Deregulation Act of 2019](#)

(Office of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)) Today (February 27, 2019), U.S. Senators Rand Paul of Kentucky and Chuck Grassley of Iowa introduced the Fuel Choice and Deregulation Act of 2019(S.581), legislation that would remove burdensome regulations on domestic energy production. “The Fuel Choice and Deregulation Act provides new economic opportunity for Kentucky farmers ...

March 1, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[U.S. EPA Gets 37 Bids for Small Refinery Waivers through Mid-February](#)

by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received 37 applications for small refinery waivers for 2018 from the U.S. Renewable Standard (RFS) through mid-February, according to data released on Thursday by the agency. The 37 applications matches the total the EPA received last year, when it approved waivers ...

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

[Kern Oil Threatens to Sue EPS over Delayed Biofuel Waiver Decision](#)

(KTIC Radio) Kern Oil & Refining Co has threatened to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for failing to respond to its request for a small refinery biofuel waiver within the proscribed 90 days, according to a letter seen by Reuters on Tuesday. ... Kern, a privately owned California company, said ...

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

[API Study: EPA's Proposal for Reforming RINs Exacerbates Broken Fuels Mandate](#)

(American Petroleum Institute) Today (February 26, 2019), the American Petroleum Institute released a new study that found EPA's proposal to reform the Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) market will only worsen program. This could ultimately harm consumers. "API's new study makes clear that the EPA's RINs reform proposal both misdiagnosed the problem and provides ...

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

[Delay in SAFE Rule Disappointing, But Still an Opportunity](#)

(Urban Air Initiative) EPA's decision to delay fuel economy rules until "later in the year" provides the Urban Air Initiative an opportunity to continue educating the agency on the benefits of clean octane from higher ethanol blends. Originally the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule was supposed to be finalized by ...

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

[GROWMARK Offers Pre-Blended E15 at More Terminals](#)

by Cindy Zimmerman (Energy.AgWired.com) GROWMARK Energy is adding to the number terminals around the Midwest offering pre-blended E15, according to the Renewable Fuels Association, which has worked closely with the farmer-owned cooperative on related issues such as regulatory compliance and adoption of RFA's Misfueling Mitigation Plan (MMP). GROWMARK will now offer pre-blended E15 ...

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

[Icahn-Backed Refiner Saves \\$189 Million on EPA's Biofuel Tweaks](#)

by Mario Parker and Jennifer A. Dlouhy (Bloomberg) CVR Energy Inc., backed by billionaire investor Carl Icahn, saved \$189 million under the U.S. biofuels mandate last year. That's largely thanks to a campaign he helped ignite to lower costs for compliance. CVR Energy, an independent oil refiner majority owned by Icahn Enterprises ...

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

[10-Slide Guide to the US Ethanol Industry](#)

by Douglas B. Rivers (Biofuels Digest/Lee Enterprises, Inc.) Past, Present and Future Douglas B. Rivers, PhD, from Sunflwr Consulting and a member of Lee Enterprises Consulting, offers this illuminating overview of the U.S. ethanol industry's history, current technologies, new developments and trends, and more. READ MORE RFA Releases Three ...

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[Renewable Jet Fuel from Woody Biomass](#)

by Marina Bowie (Biobased Maine) According to the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (1990-2016), the transportation sector is one of the largest contributors to U.S anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, at 28%. Of

the 28%, aircraft transportation contributes 9% of emissions. Luckily, biobased technology companies have found ways to convert ...

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[Will 2019 Finally Be the Year of E15?](#)

by Ron Lamberty (American Coalition for Ethanol) Retailer interest in E15 increased over the past few months, with many retailers believing President Donald Trump “signed something” making E15 legal year-round at an event in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in October. We’ve explained there wasn’t any law or rule put into place at the ...

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

[Evolution of Ethanol](#)

by Kristin Danley-Greiner (The Messenger) ... Monte Shaw, director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, said that an estimated 10,000 families are directly invested in locally owned ethanol plants. There are hundreds of thousands of producers who are directly linked, too. He grew up on an Iowa farm in the ...

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

[New York State Could Help Clear the Air by Approving Sale of E15](#)

(Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On February 21, EESI submitted comments to New York State supporting the use of E15 in the state to improve air

quality and reduce greenhouse gases. New York is one of seven states that expressly prohibit the sale of E15 (15 percent ethanol, 85 percent gasoline), ...

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

[SD Farmers Union Calls Out GM on Weak Octane Proposals](#)

(South Dakota Farmers Union) In a letter to General Motors Chair and CEO Mary Barra today (February 21, 2019), South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke challenged the automaker on its claim that 98 RON (Research Octane Number) or higher gasoline was not feasible and called on them to look at ...

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

[Trump Agency Proposes Overhaul of Biofuel Credit Trading](#)

by Jennifer A Dlouhy and Mario Parker (Bloomberg) EPA will propose several options, including position limits; Effort aims to quash speculation and boost transparency — The Trump administration is planning to propose an overhaul of the opaque market for trading biofuel compliance credits amid complaints of hoarding and wild price swings, according to ...

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

[Despite Challenges, Ethanol Supporters Say Industry Is Vital](#)

by Steve White (NTV-ABC) Nebraska's a world leader in ethanol, but global politics have the industry treading on thin ice. "Tougher together" is Chris Vincent's motto

these days. The CEO of Aurora Cooperative stands behind ethanol, even as the profitability has disappeared. ... The co-op is a partner with Pacific Ethanol in ...

February 20, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Talks Break Down Between California, U.S. on Car Mileage, Sources Say](#)

by Ryan Beene (Bloomberg) Trump administration seeking to roll back Obama-era standards; Cars are a flashpoint in tension between Trump, California — Talks between California and federal officials on vehicle emissions and fuel economy standards have broken down without a deal, three people familiar with the matter said. The Environmental Protection Agency and ...

February 20, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[Risks in the Climate Finance Markets](#)

by Michael Newman (Parhelion Underwriting Inc./Biofuels Digest) Risks often act as barriers to investment and trading in the climate finance market – the systems designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), California’s Cap & Trade and Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) – because Federal and State ...

February 20, 2019 [Read Full Article](#)

[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](#)

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Regulations Open for Public Comment

[Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Modifications to Fuel Regulations to Provide Flexibility for E15 and to Elements of the Renewable Identification Number Compliance System — COMMENTS DUE April 29, 2019](#)

(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) On March 12, 2019, EPA proposed regulatory changes to allow gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) to take advantage of the 1-psi Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver that currently applies to E10 during the summer months. EPA is also proposing regulatory changes to ...

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Federal Litigation



Litigation continues on EPA's ["small" refinery exemptions](#) and reallocation of the [waived gallons](#). Fraud sentencing in an international biodiesel fraud; Sierra Club sues for EPA to assess impact of biofuels; and a new coalition is ready to sue on [eRINs](#) implementation.

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

[EPA Wants Refinery Information Sealed Agency Asks Court Not to Disclose Waivers Brief, Documents to Public](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The EPA wants to keep from the public eye an opening brief and some records to be filed in a small-refinery waivers case, claiming in a court motion the information is subject to a protective order on confidential business information. The agency made the ...

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[Court Brief: EPA Strayed on RFS Waivers — EPA Changed Course on Small-Refinery Waivers Without Public Input](#)

by Todd Neeley (DTN The Progressive Farmer) The EPA broke away from Renewable Fuel Standard requirements for granting small-refinery waivers starting in May 2017 and continued to deny a congressional order regarding which refiners qualify, according to a 97-page brief filed in a federal court in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. The ...

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[EPA Changed Rules to Help Profitable Refiners Get Biofuel Waivers: Lawsuit](#)

by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) U.S. environmental regulators quietly changed the way they assess applications from refineries for waivers from the nation's biofuels law, making it possible for highly profitable plants to secure lucrative exemptions, according to court documents filed by a biofuels trade group on Thursday. The new documents, part of ...

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[Eugene Man Resentenced in Biodiesel Fraud Case](#)

by Maxine Bernstein (The Oregonian/OregonLive) Jack Holden and co-defendant Lloyd Benton Sharp together defrauded 12 people who invested in a project to produce biodiesel fuel in the West African nation of Ghana. When the project failed, the two men duped the investors into providing additional funds to support nonexistent projects to transport ...

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[EPA Will Study Ethanol's Impact on Air Quality after Long Delay](#)

by Jarrett Renshaw (Reuters) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Friday it has agreed to conduct a long-delayed study to assess the impact that burning ethanol as a motor vehicle fuel has on air quality. The Sierra Club had filed a lawsuit against the EPA late last year in an ...

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[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 ...

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Joanne: **If you read some of these articles and say to yourself, "That's really important!",** you understand the need for biofuels education. Biofuels is not an easy topic to understand.

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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