Dove making a soft landing. They called it Snowzilla, that 30 hours of snow that dumped 36 inches of the white stuff in the Eastern US in late January. Sometimes fierce, sometimes quiet, with beautiful moments like the careful landing of a dove onto the powdery fluff.

**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**

To help you make sustainable renewable transportation fuels part of the conversations of the 2016 campaigns, Advanced Biofuels USA is following comments by candidates as the presidential and Congressional campaign season gets underway. 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

Issue Brief: Obama FY2017 Budget Proposal: Sustainable Energy, Buildings, Transportation and Climate
February 12, 2016 – 3:58 pm | No Comment
(Environmental and Energy Study Institute) On February 9, 2016, President Obama released his $4.15 trillion fiscal year (FY) 2017 federal budget proposal, a 5 percent increase over 2016. In his final budget request, President Obama …

Take Mr. Obama’s Oil Fee Proposal Seriously
February 9, 2016 – 12:24 am | No Comment
(The Washington Post Editorial) In his new budget proposal, Mr. Obama is proposing a $10-per-barrel fee on oil, which would translate into about 24 cents per gallon of refined gasoline. He would spend the proceeds …

Energy Bill Amendments Aim to Impede Biofuels, Benefit Bioenergy
February 8, 2016 – 3:29 pm | No Comment
by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. Senate is currently considering the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015. To date, lawmakers have introduced more than 275 amendments to the bill, including several that would …

2 House Members File To Form Bipartisan Caucus On Climate (Yes, They’re Both From S. Florida)
February 8, 2016 – 2:39 pm | No Comment
(DemocraticUnderground.com) Two congressmen — Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R) and Rep. Theodore Deutch (D), both of Florida, filed paperwork this week to create the Climate Solutions Caucus. The group plans to look at options to address climate …

Obama to Seek New Tax on Oil in Budget Proposal
U.S. President Barack Obama will launch a long-shot bid next week to impose a $10-a-barrel tax on crude oil that would fund the overhaul of the nation’s aging …

Key Vote: Senate Energy Bill Amendments
February 3, 2016 – 12:36 pm | No Comment
(American Energy Alliance)  The Senate is poised to consider broad energy legislation, the first of its kind since 2007. S.2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act, seeks to address various facets of energy policy, from efficiency …

American Energy Alliance Launches Six-Figure Ad Buy against Toomey-Feinstein
January 29, 2016 – 4:03 pm | No Comment
by Meghan Sapp (Biofuels Digest)  In Washington, the American Energy Alliance launched a six-figure advocacy initiative urging Congress to reject efforts that fall short of fully repealing the Renewable Fuel Standard. Amid speculation that the Toomey-Feinstein …

Push to Change Biodiesel Tax from Blender’s to Producer’s Credit
January 26, 2016 – 6:15 pm | No Comment
by Mark Dorenkamp (Brownfield Ag News)  The Minnesota Soybean Growers would like to see the Biodiesel Tax Credit changed from a blender’s to a producer’s credit. Under current law, blenders of biodiesel can claim a one …

Fortune Smiles on Industry, Better Late Than Never
January 26, 2016 – 5:24 pm | No Comment
by Michael McAdams (Advanced Biofuels Association/Biomass Magazine)  … Second, we have both retroactive and forward-facing tax credits. For the first time in years, Congress injected some certainty into the market by extending expired tax provision for …

Let’s Give Credit Where It’s Due
January 25, 2016 – 11:49 am | No Comment
by Kenneth Riffle (Salina Journal) Opinion:  … Ethanol utilized as an oxygenate in blended gasoline helps control carbon monoxide emissions. As an economic driver, ethanol has strengthened rural communities by adding value to agricultural production. If adhered …

Ethanol: Does EPA’s RFS Ruling Meet Congress’s Intent?
January 25, 2016 – 11:28 am | No Comment
by Jonathan Coppess (University of Illinois/AgFax)  Today’s article completes the discussion of EPA’s final rule for the RFS. The previous articles in this series provided background on the RFS, a general review of the final rule and …
Before, during and after the Iowa caucuses, the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) stood in for renewable transportation fuels, in general. As in—if a candidate was for the RFS, then he or she was for ethanol and most pundits and reporters equated that with and seemed to understand "ethanol" as a word indicating all renewable transportation fuels, like "Kleenex" means all tissues for runny noses or "Coke" refers to what people in other parts of the country call sodas or pop.

The good thing is that people who didn’t think about ethanol or biofuels at all now found themselves interested in learning more about them. And, people “in the know” had to refine our understanding of the RFS, how it works now, and what happens after 2022. There are some very good articles in this list which elucidate that complexity quite well.

Thanks to Michelle Ye Hee Lee of the Washington Post’s Fact Checker for the first significant effort to explain this to a general audience. And to Jonathan Coppess’ Farm Doc Daily articles which go into detail for an industry and academic audience.

Octane and its role in achieving environmental and energy policy objective got some attention, too.

Here are some of our latest postings. Others you’ll find in the Federal Regulations category.

The Shocking Truth About America's Ethanol Law: It Doesn't Matter (For Now)
February 11, 2016 – 8:58 pm | No Comment
by Dan Charles (New England Public Radio) … If you oppose government interventions in the free market, as Cruz does, the RFS is an outrage. …
This view of the RFS is widely shared across the political …

Following-up on RFS Questions
February 11, 2016 – 8:40 pm | No Comment
by Jonathan Coppess (Farm Doc Daily) The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has been a hot topic of late given the release of the final rule and its rather prominent feature leading up to the recent Iowa …

What You Need to Know about the Federal Trade Commission’s Final Rule Regarding Labeling of Ethanol Blends Beyond 10%
February 10, 2016 – 6:53 pm | No Comment
by Kelly Davis (Renewable Fuels Association) The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has issued a final rule on how ethanol blends above 10% must be labeled at retail fuel stations. The final rule, which was published …

DuPont Says RFS Volumes Put Company’s Cellulolic Ethanol Investments at Risk
February 9, 2016 – 2:55 pm | No Comment
(DTN/Progressive Farmer/KTIC Radio) DuPont filed a motion Friday to intervene in a lawsuit seeking review of the Environmental Protection Agency’s latest Renewable Fuel Standard volumes, arguing the final volume requirements put the company’s cellulosic ethanol …
Why Flint? Why Dieselgate? Why Was the EPA Prevented From Acting?

February 9, 2016 – 1:59 pm | No Comment
by Robert E. Kozak* (Advanced Biofuels USA) Of all the grandstanding by politicians over the Flint, Michigan, drinking water disaster perhaps the most hypocritical has been that of Democrats such as Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton …

Blog: More Details on the High Octane Story

February 9, 2016 – 1:41 pm | No Comment
by Holly Jessen (Ethanol Producer Magazine) I really enjoyed learning about research into midlevel ethanol blends from Timothy Theiss and Brian West, researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. "E25, E40 for the masses" went live …

EPA Rulemaking Aims to Update GHG Reporting Requirements

February 8, 2016 – 3:42 pm | No Comment
by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The U.S. EPA has published a proposed rule that aims to amend specific provisions in the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, including some provisions related to biogas and ethanol. … Regarding ethanol, …

Ethanol Backers Say Higher Blends Would Reduce Air Toxics

February 2, 2016 – 8:08 pm | No Comment
by Renee Schoof (Bloomberg BNA) A group of farm-state governors and some advocates for clean energy are pressing the Environmental Protection Agency to get tougher on toxic air pollution from motor vehicles in a way that …

Think Crude’s Cheap? Biodiesel’s Going for Free in Some Places

February 2, 2016 – 7:08 pm | No Comment
by Laura Blewitt and Mario Parker (Bloomberg) … Biodiesel’s become so cheap in the U.S. that some refiners are being paid to use it. Midwest refiners are paying as little as 64.5 cents a gallon for the fuel …

In the Ethanol Wars, Both Sides Are Wrong

February 1, 2016 – 9:01 pm | No Comment
by C. Boyden Gray (Des Moines Register) The Iowa primary has put into play one of the more obscure issues in the political life of the nation — ethanol, of all things. Donald Trump led …

Ethanol Misinformation Clutters 2016 Campaign Coverage

January 29, 2016 – 6:23 pm | No Comment
by Andy Eubank (Hoosier Ag Today) … But the media play of ethanol has been inaccurate at times, for example when they refer to a corn ethanol subsidy. “There actually is no subsidy for corn ethanol. We gave …

What Biodiesel Producers Should Know about Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

January 28, 2016 – 11:10 am | No Comment
by Ron Kotrba (Biodiesel Magazine) If your glycerin or free fatty acids may find their way into the food or feed supply, you must comply with the daunting Food Safety Modernization Act — … Moreover, if …

**Growing Beyond the RFS to Drive Demand for Ethanol**
January 27, 2016 – 3:28 pm | No Comment
by Joanna Schroeder (DomesticFuel.com) … “The RFS helped kick start the significant volumes of ethanol production we see today, but we cannot rely on the RFS to ensure a continued market,” Durante (Doug Durante, Clean …

**The Digest’s 2016 8-Slide Guide to NREL’s High-Octane Mid-Level Ethanol Blend Market Assessment**
January 26, 2016 – 12:41 pm | No Comment
by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) This past month, NREL published a critical assessment on the viability of High-Octane Mid-Level Ethanol Blends and the impact on US energy options. The complete assessment is here.
NREL writes:
The introduction …

**Octane’s Liquid Diamonds: The Secret Value of Ethanol**
January 26, 2016 – 11:50 am | No Comment
by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) Is ethanol really worth $3.81 for the octane but costs only $1.39 on the market? How could that be? Math majors around the country are frequently perplexed by this one. If …

**FTC Rule Amends Labeling Requirements for Certain Ethanol Blends**
January 25, 2016 – 4:57 pm | No Comment
by Erin Voegele (Ethanol Producer Magazine) The Federal Trade Commission has published a rule in the Federal Register finalizing amendments to its rule for automotive fuel ratings, certification and posting. The new rule adopts rating, …

**Should the Ethanol Industry Promote E30 Fuel Blend?**
January 25, 2016 – 12:02 pm | No Comment
by Mikkel Pates (Grand Forks Herald) … Brian West, deputy director of the Fuels, Engines and Emissions Research Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn., said the issue shouldn’t be difficult with …

**Ethanol: Does EPA’s RFS Ruling Meet Congress’s Intent?**
January 25, 2016 – 11:28 am | No Comment
by Jonathan Coppess (University of Illinois/AgFax) Today’s article completes the discussion of EPA’s final rule for the RFS. The previous articles in this series provided background on the RFS, a general review of the final rule and …

**RFA Issues One-Pager to Correct Anti-Ethanol Rhetoric on the Presidential Campaign Trail**
January 22, 2016 – 1:19 pm | No Comment
(Renewable Fuel Association) In response to the anti-ethanol rhetoric that has been dominating the presidential campaign in the run-up to the Iowa caucuses, the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) sent a one-pager to media
outlets to …

Great Green Fleet: The Digest's 2016 8-Slide Guide to the US Navy's Transition to Renewable Fuels
January 20, 2016 – 6:40 pm | No Comment
by Jim Lane (Biofuels Digest) The Department of the Navy is now buying advanced, drop-in, cost-competitive, next gen renewable fuels. The biofuels sought can be blended in a range of 10 to 50 percent with conventional …

The Candidates and Media Are Getting the Iowa Ethanol Debate All Wrong
January 15, 2016 – 12:20 pm | No Comment
by Michelle Ye Hee Lee (Washington Post Fact Checker) … The Fact Checker will explore an important distinction in the rhetoric over the ethanol mandate that has been mischaracterized by politicians, including Cruz, and even members of …

Latest Federal Litigation Posts

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

Fraud also raised its ugly head.

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

Follow the links to the original posts to access the full articles. Find more items about federal litigation on our website here.

Biofuel Company with Polygamous Ties Spent Big on Utah Politicians even as Frauds Were Found
February 15, 2016 – 1:41 pm | No Comment
by Nate Carlisle and Brian Maffly (The Salt Lake Tribune) Federal agents raided offices of Washakie and Kingstons amid claims the company hasn’t actually manufactured its own biofuels. — The storage tanks Washakie Renewable Energy …

Valero Energy Sues U.S. EPA over Biofuels Plan
February 15, 2016 – 11:57 am | No Comment
by Chris Prentice (Reuters) Valero Energy Corp filed lawsuits against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday to push the regulator to alter a U.S. policy designed to boost use of renewables in transportation fuels. The …

US Files Civil Complaint against VW for Clean Air Act Violations
February 9, 2016 – 8:37 pm | No Comment
The U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the U.S. EPA, filed a civil complaint Jan. 4 in federal court in Detroit, Michigan, against Volkswagen AG, Audi AG, Volkswagen Group …

**DuPont Says RFS Volumes Put Company’s Cellulosic Ethanol Investments at Risk**

February 9, 2016 – 2:55 pm | No Comment

(DTN/Progressive Farmer/KTIC Radio) DuPont filed a motion Friday to intervene in a lawsuit seeking review of the Environmental Protection Agency’s latest Renewable Fuel Standard volumes, arguing the final volume requirements put the company’s cellulosic ethanol …

**Ethanol Backers Say Higher Blends Would Reduce Air Toxics**

February 2, 2016 – 8:08 pm | No Comment

by Renee Schoof (Bloomberg BNA) A group of farm-state governors and some advocates for clean energy are pressing the Environmental Protection Agency to get tougher on toxic air pollution from motor vehicles in a way that …

**National Biodiesel Board Challenge to Rules on Argentinian Biodiesel Imports Continues**

January 19, 2016 – 6:14 pm | No Comment

(American Soybean Association) The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) this week filed a legal brief with the

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**On The Road**

**Advanced Biofuels USA’s Executive Director Participates in Energy & Sustainability Extravaganza — February 5, 2016 — Arlington, VA**
Leaders in Energy's Janine Finnell (right) introduces (from right) Advanced Biofuels USA's Joanne Ivancic, Dr. Gail Marcus (Consultant for Nuclear Technology and Policy); and Dr. Elaine Ulrich (Team Lead, Soft Costs, SunShot Initiative, U.S. Department of Energy) as they discussed "Making an Impact In Your Clean Energy and Sustainability Career" at the Energy & Sustainability Extravaganza February 5 at George Mason University.

The Association of Energy Engineers - National Capital Chapter, Leaders in Energy, and George Mason University's Center for Energy Science and Policy hosted the Women in Energy and Environmental Leadership lunch and panel discussion, followed by a showcase on George Mason University's clean energy and sustainability research, education and activities.

Showcase presenters included:

--Jennifer Sklarew, Ph.D., Center for Energy Science and Policy
--Paul Houser, Ph.D, Center for Energy Science and Policy
--Roger LeBlanc, Sustainability Living Learning Community Center
--Colin Reagle, Ph.D., Colgenau School of Engineering
--Dann Sklarew, Ph.D., Sustainability Coordinator; Potomac Environmental Research & Education Center, & Applied Ecology & Sustainability Science
--Alexander Brodsky, Ph.D, Volgenau School of Engineering
--Roberto Levy, Ph.D., Student, Volgenau School of Engineering
--Tyler Jenkins, Student, President AEE NCC Student Chapter
--Krishnamurthy Vemuru, Ph.D, Physics Department
--Todd M. LaPorte, Ph.D., Government and International Affairs
--Frank Manheim, School of Government, Policy, and International Affairs

Photos courtesy of Agustín N. Cruz - ArlingtonGreen - augie.cruz@gmail.com

Advanced Biofuels USA Represented at the Maryland Clean Energy Center's Legislative Reception — February 4, 2016  — Annapolis, MD

Over 260 registered attendees representing a broad cross section of the energy sector took part in the dialogue about "Banking on Maryland’s Clean Energy Economy" February 4 in Maryland’s historic capital, Annapolis. Policymakers on hand to speak about their bills the organization also stopped by to lend their support. Representing the biofuels industry were Advanced Biofuels USA's co-founder and board member Robert E. Kozak, President of Atlantic Biomass located in Frederick Maryland, and executive director Joanne Ivancic, shown (standing) with Frederick County Sustainability Office's Lisa Orr and Shannon Moore (back to camera).

Kozak and Ivancic also appreciated the opportunity to meet with State...
Senator Ronald Young to discuss biofuels research in his district, as well as exciting agricultural and biofuels developments in other parts of the state.

*Photos courtesy Isabel Aldunate, Maryland Clean Energy Center*

### Original Articles!

Policy Analysis was the focus of the past month with Robert E. (Bob) Kozak contributing a wealth of ideas and insights. "After the Fall" sets out the choices we face as the US builds a liquid transportation fuel industry--invest in sustainable, renewable resources or in fossil-based fuels with prices controlled by hostile forces?

He also explores the evolution of the Environmental Protection Agency from an independent enforcement agency to a tool of White House administrations--and the current crises in water and air quality from Flint Michigan to cheating on emissions tests by Germany's VW.

On more positive notes, he also reports on the latest Farm-to-Fly efforts in Florida and Energy Secretary Moniz' expression of support for biofuels.

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**After the Fall: Rebuilding US Liquid Fuel Production – Invest in Our Land or the Shale Oil Fields? (Part 2 of 2)**  
February 12, 2016 – 11:20 am | No Comment

Efforts to promote a sustainable use of natural resources are not a waste of money, but rather an investment capable of providing other economic benefits in the medium term. If we look at the larger …

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**Why Flint? Why Dieselgate? Why Was the EPA Prevented From Acting?**  
February 9, 2016 – 1:59 pm | No Comment

by Robert E. Kozak* (Advanced Biofuels USA) Of all the grandstanding by politicians over the Flint, Michigan, drinking water disaster perhaps the most hypocritical has been that of Democrats such as Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton …

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**US Energy Secretary Expresses Support for Biofuels at DC Auto Show**  
January 21, 2016 – 11:39 am | No Comment

by Robert E. Kozak and Joanne Ivancic (Advanced Biofuels USA) This year, for a change, in the introduction to his remarks at the Washington, DC Auto Show, US Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz pointed out …

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**Honda VP Says NSX Probably Racing in 2017 Le Mans GT Class**
January 21, 2016 – 10:42 am | No Comment

by Robert E. Kozak and Joanne Ivancic (Advanced Biofuels USA) John Mendel, Executive Vice President, American Honda Motor Co., in answer to a question at the DC Auto Show said there would be an announcement …

Florida Treasure Coast Farm-to-Fly Aviation Biofuel Project Starts Feasibility Study
January 19, 2016 – 5:05 pm | No Comment

by Robert E. Kozak* (Advanced Biofuels USA) On January 7th, the Florida Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Authority (TCERDA) held a Kickoff Meeting in Ft. Pierce for their Farm-to-Fly Aviation Biofuel feasibility study. This …

More Educational Resources

What others are doing

We can't emphasize enough the value of every bit of thoughtful, knowledgeable education about biofuels. Here are some examples.

Abu Dhabi Goes Green! Used Cooking Becomes Biodiesel in New Project
February 15, 2016 – 1:47 pm | No Comment

by Sarvy Geranpayeh (Albawaba) Tadweer, the Centre of Waste Management Abu Dhabi, has launched an initiative to convert household's cooking oil waste into biodiesel for vehicles. The project has been started in Abu Dhabi’s Al Raha area …

Sustainable Energy Management Teaching Assistantships
January 4, 2016 – 3:37 pm | No Comment

The SUNY ESF Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management (FNRM) is seeking qualified students to serve as Teaching Assistants to assist with teaching natural resources policy and law courses. Selected students will be teaching …

If you can help students attend conferences, please do. It's an incredibly valuable experience.

Scholarships and Competitions
CALL FOR POSTERS: Emerging Technologies Student Leaders Conference DEADLINE: February 26, 2016
TechConnect, in partnership with the University of Virginia's Nano and Emerging Technologies Club (NExT), the University of Central Florida's Society for Emerging and NanoTechnologies (SENT), and SUNY Albany's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Club is proud …

CBMNet Funding Announcements; Includes Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships Various deadlines
December 7, 2015 – 1:55 pm | No Comment
(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, …

Students, Prep Your Entries for Planet Forward Storyfest 2016! Deadline February 29, 2016
October 27, 2015 – 12:10 pm | No Comment
(George Washington University) Already dense urban populations are growing. What will tomorrow’s smart cities look like? How can they be sustainable?
By 2050, nearly 70% of the world’s population will be in urban areas, according to …

NEWBio Scholarships Available: Online Bioenergy Graduate Education DEADLINE: March 15, 2016
February 1, 2016 – 1:18 pm | No Comment
(NEWBio) NEWBio is offering a limited number of scholarships for students to take the following online graduate-level bioenergy courses during the summer semester of 2016: ABE884 (Bioenergy Systems) and ABE885 (Bioenergy Harvest and Logistics). Find …

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative Fellowships DEADLINES: February 11, March 18 and March 24, 2016
February 1, 2016 – 1:15 pm | No Comment
(US Department of Agriculture) Program: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) | AFRI Education and Literacy Initiative | Educational Scholarship Programs The AFRI Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI) …

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