

## Bioethanol

What is bioethanol?



Bioethanol is an alcohol produced from organic biomass such as sugar, wheat or maize, and represents over 80% of global biofuel production. Bioethanol is a biodegradable, non-toxic and proven alternative to fossil fuel that can be blended for use in any petrol-engine car today without modification. In fact, ethanol has already been used in cars for over 80 years - Henry Ford regarded it as 'the fuel of the future' and designed his early engines to run on a bioethanol/petrol mix. Greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced through the use of bioethanol, as the crops used to produce bioethanol absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as they grow. When produced from sustainable crops in Europe, it also provides the EU's rural economy with a welcome boost.

Biofuels are liquid fuels made from plant materials. They can be used in transport fuel instead of conventional fossil fuels. Because the plants they are made from are renewable and absorb carbon dioxide as they grow biofuels make a contribution to cutting carbon emissions.

Ensus makes bioethanol from grains such as feed wheat or maize grown in the UK and in Europe. Bioethanol is an alcohol, produced in a similar way to those used in spirits. It requires crops such as wheat, maize, sugar beet, and sugar cane that contain starch or sugar which can be converted into alcohol. It is blended with petrol to meet the new government requirement (the RTFO) that all transport fuel should include at least 4.75% of biofuels by 2013.

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