BIOFUELS EQUIPMENT DIRECTORY 2018

This is the 4th edition of the biofuels equipment directory. It is a listing of technology suppliers that serve the producers of liquid and liquefied transportation biofuels and renewable fuels such as ethanol, biodiesel, HVO, biojet along with biooils and marine biofuels. It is though by no means complete as the number of companies entering this sector is increasing. Not on the list? Then let us know.



EUROPE'S ETHANOL INDUSTRY BOOSTS OUTPUT OF LOW-CARBON FUEL AND HIGH-PROTEIN FEED

uropean renewable ethanol association (ePURE) members produced 5.84 billion litres of ethanol and 5.71 million tonnes of beneficial co-products in 2017, according to new audited data released by the industry group.

According to ePURE, some 81 percent of the total 5.84 billion litres of ethanol output produced by its members was for fuel use, with an average of more than 70 percent greenhouse-gas (GHG) savings compared to petrol in 2017.

Ethanol's GHG-reducing performance increased for the sixth year in a row as the sustainability of European renewable ethanol continues to improve – jumping by more than 4 percentage points over 2016. Of the rest of the ethanol production in 2017, 10 percent was for industrial use and 9 percent for food and beverages.

– European renewable ethanol keeps building on its importance as a clean-mobility solution. Every year, ethanol improves its greenhouse-gas-reduction score, reaching more than 70 percent on average in 2017 compared to fossil fuel, said Emmanuel Desplechin, Secretary-General of ePURE.

Virtually all of the feedstock used to produce renewable ethanol by ePURE members – including cereals, sugars, wastes, and residues – was grown or sourced in Europe. Along with the fuel, ePURE members' ethanol refineries also produced 5.71 million tonnes of co-products, including 4.32 million tonnes of animal feed and 0.77 million tonnes of captured carbon dioxide (CO₂).

– Last year's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) confirmed European ethanol's status as a good biofuel – one that will be vital to achieving European climate and energy goals. Also, the new data show ethanol production is an important source of animal feed at a time when the EU is trying to reduce its need to import protein, Desplechin said.

According to a new study from Ricardo Energy & Environment, Europe's push to decarbonise road transport would benefit significantly from the use of low-carbon fuels such as renewable ethanol, especially with a high percentage of cars with internal combustion engines still on Europe's roads for decades.

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APJ GmbH	www.apj-gmbh.de
Ayerbe Plantas Industriales de Secado S.L.	www.apisa.info
Baker-Rullman Manufacturing, Inc.	www.baker-rullman.com
Balcke-Dürr GmbH	www.balcke-duerr.de
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BDI - BioEnergy International AG	www.bdi-bioenergy.com
Biochar Soloutions Inc	www.biocharsolutions.com
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C.R.S.I. SA Centro Ricerche Sviluppo Impianti	www.crsi.ch
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Biomethane reaches 90% share in Swedish vehicle gas

The proportion of biomethane in vehicle grade gas at Swedish refueling stations continues to increase. New figures from Statistics Sweden for the first half of 2018 show that the renewable share in vehicle gas is just over 90 percent. In addition, new car registrations for July suggests that the government's introduction of "bonus-malus" environmental rules for new vehicles may already have had a positive effect on natural gas vehicle (NGV) sales.

Statistics for the first half of 2018 released by Statistics Sweden on August 17 show that the proportion of biomethane (also known as green gas or renewable natural gas – RNG) in vehicle gas sold to motorists at filling stations is at 90.8 percent, up almost 4 percent compared to the full year 2017 and up almost 8 percent on 2016.

A bonus effect of bonus-malus?

Furthermore, new car registrations for July indicate that the government's new "bonus-malus" emission rules for new vehicles that came into effect July 1 is already having a positive effect on gas powered vehicle (NGV) sales.

Under the new regulation, new (2018 model year) vehicles – passenger cars, vans, minibuses, and motorhomes – registered from July 1 and that have tailpipe carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of 60 g per km or less can receive up to SEK 60 000 (\approx EUR 5 726) bonus whereas vehicles that emit 95 g CO₂ per km or more receive a "malus" in the form of increased road tax for the first three years.

NVGs qualify for a SEK 10 000 (\approx EUR 955) "bonus" and in July, 290 new NGVs were registered up 84 percent compared to 158 in July 2017.

Continued environmental tax exemption to end of 2020

In addition, the EU Commission has approved a request from the Swedish authorities for an extension of the existing tax exemption scheme for certain renewable fuels used for heat generation until the end of 2020. First introduced in 2007, the Commission had approved an extension in 2012 until the end of this year. The new extension approval is until the end of 2020.

Both energy tax and carbon tax are environmental taxes. Reduction or exemption from taxes may be designed to constitute measures as state aid. The aid may only compensate for additional costs for biofuel production in relation to the fossil fuel being replaced and must be approved by the Commission prior introduction to ensure that the beneficiaries are not overcompensated.

The decision is in line with the Commission's guidelines for state aid for environmental protection and energy for 2014-2020 (EEAG) and means that certain taxable biofuels, including biogas, will continue to be exempt from energy taxes and carbon tax when used for heat production. Biogas used as a transportation fuel is not affected as this is already covered in another approved scheme until the end of 2020. Proposals for biogas tax regulations for the period after 2020, both as heating and transportation fuels, will be investigated in the state biogas inquiry that was launched just before the summer.

Text & photo: Alan Sherrard

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Zuccato Energia Srl	www.zuccatoenergia.it

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Note that the information used comes from the companies or from their web pages. In many cases a company also can supply other equipment and/or services. This is easy to check if needed because all web pages are presented in the table and of course the links are working on the online pdf file version.