

Ethanol: A renewable, earth-friendly biofuel



QUICK FACT

Between 1980 and 2015, the land used to grow a bushel of corn shrank by 41 percent, while the need [for irrigation fell by 46 percent](#).

QUICK FACT

In the first 10 years of the policy, the RFS has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equal to removing [124 million vehicles from the road](#).

Ethanol is a renewable biofuel produced from grains, plants, and grasses. Ethanol [burns cleaner and cooler than oil](#), which is good for our environment and our car engines.

ETHANOL IS GOOD FOR THE EARTH.

- Corn ethanol [reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent](#) compared to conventional gasoline and has the potential to [reduce emissions by as much as 76 percent](#).
- Advancements in cellulosic biofuels [can reduce emissions by 100 percent](#), and today the first commercial-scale plants are fully operating.
- Ethanol helps to [displace toxic petroleum chemicals](#) that have been proven to cause cancer and smog. The U.S. used enough ethanol in 2017 to offset the need for more than 343 million barrels of toxic petroleum products like MTBE, benzene, Toluene, and xylene – which all have detrimental impacts on human health. That amount would fill almost 22,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

ETHANOL IS GETTING GREENER EVERY YEAR.

- Thanks to the foundation of research and development laid by conventional producers, advanced cellulosic biofuels production technologies are possible.
- The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has driven technological advancements, thereby creating further efficiency in the ethanol process.
- The ethanol industry is using less water and land today than ever before while producing record-breaking higher yields.

ETHANOL PRODUCTION DOES NOT THREATEN NATURAL GRASSLANDS AND PRAIRIES.

- Thanks to innovative farming techniques, [U.S. corn production is up](#) over the last 10 years, [but agricultural land use is down](#).
- Farmers today grow five times as much corn as they did in the [1930s on 20 percent less land](#).

ETHANOL PRODUCTION IS BECOMING EVEN MORE SUSTAINABLE.

- With ongoing innovations in agriculture and biofuel production, ethanol gets cleaner and more sustainable year after year, delivering great benefits for consumers and for our environment.
- [The water required to produce ethanol](#) has dropped almost 50 percent in the past 10 years. Modern production only requires 2.7 gallons of water per gallon of ethanol.