

2026 Ethanol Policy Roadmap

Reduce Fuel Prices with E15

- Congress should enact legislation to permanently allow year-round sales of E15 (S. 593/H.R. 1346: Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act; Section 12501 of the Agricultural Act of 2026).
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should finalize regulatory action from the first Trump administration that would revise burdensome E15 labeling requirements and conclude that current refueling infrastructure compatible with E10 is compatible with E15.

Rebuild the Farm Economy with a Robust Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)

EPA should take the following actions to ensure the integrity of the RFS:

- Prohibit unwarranted or illegal small refinery exemptions (SREs).
- Maintain EPA's policy that any SREs granted do not come at the expense of overall RVO requirements.
- Approve and complete RFS pathways including those for corn oil from ethanol wet mills, ethanol produced with carbon capture, kernel fiber from grain sorghum, and corn starch alcohol-to-jet fuel.

Win Global Markets with American Ethanol

- Lawmakers should encourage U.S. trade diplomats to finalize the details of key trade frameworks and work to combat unfair trade barriers and tariffs imposed on American ethanol by competitors in Brazil, China, India, Europe, and Southeast Asia.
- Trade officials should work to open new export opportunities for American ethanol by supporting the adoption of higher blends in Canada, Philippines, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, and across the globe.

Drive American Innovation Through Federal Tax Incentives

Treasury, working with the Departments of Energy (DOE) and Agriculture (USDA), should keep the current proposed 45Z rulemaking intact, with the following modest changes:

- Include the use of USDA's feedstock carbon intensity calculator from its Technical Guidelines for the Production of Regenerative Agricultural Biofuel Feedstocks rule as a module to the updated 45ZCF-GREET model to calculate credit value.
- Finish the Provisional Emissions Rate (PER) regulation.
- Provide additional prevailing wage flexibility:
 - » Geographic flexibility for job classifications.
 - » Allow yearly (instead of quarterly) compliance.
- Adjust SAF certification process to ease potential administrative bottlenecks and complications.
- DOE should update the 45ZCF-GREET Model and user manual to include additional feedstocks, including wheat slurry, sorghum oil, sorghum fiber, and proso millet, as well as technologies such as low-carbon natural gas and renewable natural gas.
- Revise DOE's 45ZCF-GREET User Manual to allow carbon utilization to count as a CI reducing practice.

Unleash American Energy Dominance by Reducing Barriers to Private Investment

- EPA should process Class VI underground injection control well permits within two years of receiving an application.

