



Biodiesel Quick Facts

Definition: Biodiesel is America's Advanced Biofuel. Biodiesel is made from readily available, renewable resources. It is a domestic, sustainable, cleaner-burning, diesel fuel replacement that meets strict quality specifications. Biodiesel made from recycled cooking oil, soybean oil, rendered fats and other renewable resources replaced more than 2.5 billion gallons of diesel fuel last year. Biodiesel contains no petroleum but can be blended with petroleum diesel to create biodiesel blends. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, and nontoxic. Biodiesel is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. Fuel must meet the national standard ASTM D-6751 to be classified as biodiesel.

Industry Update: The biodiesel industry is poised for a strong year in 2018 after five consecutive years near or above a two-billion-gallon annual market but federal policy uncertainty remains. The Renewable Fuel Standard is working as intended to create American jobs, reduce pollution and displace imported petroleum but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set volumes for the biodiesel industry well below what the industry is capable of meeting. Congress also allowed the biodiesel tax incentive to lapse in December 2016. The \$1-per-gallon credit creates jobs, strengthens U.S. energy security, reduces harmful emissions, diversifies the fuels market and lowers costs to consumers. With biodiesel plants nationwide—from California to Iowa to North Carolina—the biodiesel industry supports more than 64,000 jobs, \$11.42 billion in economic impact and \$2.54 billion in wages paid.

Performance: Biodiesel has the highest energy content (BTUs) of any alternative fuel. It offers significantly improved lubricity, which can reduce premature engine wear and tear, and has higher average cetane than petroleum diesel. All of this adds up to similar fuel economy, horsepower, and torque for users to easily transition to alternative fuels without sacrificing performance.

Environment: Biodiesel reduces almost all regulated emissions, is ten times less toxic than table salt, and biodegrades as fast as sugar. According to the EPA, biodiesel reduces lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by 57 to 86 percent when compared to petroleum diesel.

Health: Biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have completed the rigorous Health Effects testing required by the Clean Air Act. Results show biodiesel poses significantly less risk to human health than petroleum diesel. Biodiesel emissions also reduce by 80 to 90 percent potential cancer causing compounds. Breathing particulate has been shown to be a human health hazard, and biodiesel reduces particulate matter by 47 percent.

Energy Balance: Biodiesel has the highest energy balance of any liquid transportation fuel. Research from the University of Idaho and US Department of Agriculture shows that for every unit of energy needed to produce biodiesel, the return is 5.54 units of energy. This energy-in, energy-out ratio is called the "energy balance."

For more information: Visit www.biodiesel.org or contact Kaleb Little, Senior Communications Manager for the National Biodiesel Board at 800-841-5849 or klittle@biodiesel.org