

Ethanol Fact Sheet

The information below was taken from the following websites:

Renewable Fuels Association (www.ethanolrfa.org)

American Coalition for Ethanol (www.ethanol.org)

Wisconsin Ethanol Coalition (www.wisconsinethanol.com/)

Ethanol Promotion and Information Council (www.epicinfo.org/)

If time and resources allow, give students the opportunity to further research these websites to gain even more information and do a more indepth research on these issues before conducting the “Town Board Meeting”

In 2005, the use of ethanol reduced the U.S. trade deficit by \$8.7 billion by eliminating the need to import 170 million barrels of oil.

- 10% ethanol-enriched fuel reduces carbon monoxide *better than any other reformulated gasoline* — by as much as 30%.
- Choosing even a 10% ethanol-enriched fuel results in a 35 – 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

According to a 2004 USDA study, the production of ethanol creates more than 67 percent more energy than it takes to make it. And other studies have come to similar conclusions.

PERFORMANCE

- Auto manufacturers approve and recommend fuel enriched with up to 10% ethanol for all cars.
- Flexible fuel vehicles are designed to run on E85 (85% ethanol and 15% gasoline) — the cleanest-burning renewable fuel available today.
- By looking at your vehicle’s fuel cap, you can tell if it’s a flexible fuel vehicle — meaning it can run on regular gasoline with 10% ethanol-enriched fuel or E85.
- Fuel enriched with 10% ethanol is manufacturer-approved for use in small engines, including power equipment, motorcycles, snowmobile and outboard motors.
- Ethanol is the highest-performance fuel on the market, with an octane rating of 113.
- Ethanol-enriched fuel contains more oxygen — so it burns cleaner.
- Enriching fuel with 10% ethanol helps it to burn cleaner and at a cooler temperature, which can add to engine longevity.

ENVIRONMENT

- Ethanol is a clean-burning, renewable fuel.
- E85 is the cleanest-burning fuel available on the market today.

- 10% ethanol-enriched fuel reduces carbon monoxide better than straight gasoline — by as much as 30%.
- The use of 10% ethanol-enriched fuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 12 – 19% compared with conventional gasoline, according to Argonne National Laboratory.
- Ethanol reduces tailpipe fine particulate matter emissions by 50%. These emissions pose a threat to those with respiratory ailments.
- Ethanol is biodegradable, meaning it won't harm groundwater in the event of a spill.

AMERICA

- Ethanol-enriched fuels account for approximately 30% of all fuel sold in the United States.
- Ethanol is made from crops grown in America, primarily corn and milo.
- Today there are more than 100 ethanol plants across the country.
- Ethanol replaces gasoline that would require the use of 600,000 barrels of oil a day.
- Last year, the United States produced more than 4.3 billion gallons of ethanol.
- The U.S. ethanol industry supported the creation of nearly 153,725 jobs in all sectors of the economy in 2005, boosting household income by \$5.7 billion.

Another fact: Source: Wisconsin Corn Growers Association

If corn averages 148 bushels/acres. There are 80,000 seeds/bag and a producer uses about 30,000 seeds/acre. One bag of seed corn produces around 1,103 gallons of ethanol fuel. If the vehicle gets 20 miles per gallon, that would be 22,060 miles per bag of seed corn.

The math: $148 \text{ bu/acre} \times \frac{80,000 \text{ seeds/bag}}{30,000 \text{ seeds/acre}} = 394 \text{ bu.} \times 2.8 \text{ gal/bu} = 1103 \text{ gal.}$

$1103 \text{ gal} \times 20 \text{ mpg} = 22,060 \text{ miles/bag of seed}$