

Information sheet: Liquid biofuels

Liquid biofuels can be used to substitute fossil fuels such as diesel and petrol. Some diesel available in the UK may contain a proportion of blended biofuel. This is likely to become more common as the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, to be introduced in 2008/9, will require transport fuel suppliers to ensure a proportion of their sales are from renewable sources. Fermentation is used to produce ethanol, methanol and butanol from substrates such as maize and corn. A process called transesterification is used to convert animal fats and vegetable oils into biodiesel. Provided the raw material used in these processes is farmed or collected in a sustainable manner, biofuels offer a convenient, low carbon, alternative to conventional transport fuels.

General information – some websites will contain details of case studies

BioMatNet: Reports from EU framework programmes - www.biomatnet.org

Blooming Futures: A not for profit workers co-operative in Pure Plant Oil (PPO) technologies - bloomingfutures.com

British Association for Bio Fuels and Oils: Promotes transport fuels and oils from renewable sources, has now merged with Renewable Power/Energy Association - www.biodiesel.co.uk

European Biodiesel Board: Promotes the use of biodiesel in the EU - www.ebb-eu.org

Defra: Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs - www.defra.gov.uk/farm/crops/industrial/energy/energy2.htm

National Non Food Crops Centre: Independent information centre - www.nnfcc.co.uk/products/energy/eindex.cfm

Renewable Energy Association: General information on biomass and biofuel - www.r-e-a.net/portal_group_view.fcm?groupid=1

Supplier of biodiesel and case studies

Biodiesel Filling Stations: Supplier of biodiesel - www.biodieselfillingstations.co.uk

Biofuels Corporation Plc.: Teeside biodiesel plant - www.biofuelscorp.com

Greenstar Biofuels: Supplier of biodiesel equipment - www.biocogreenstar.co.uk

Biofuel Systems Group Ltd.: Supplier of equipment, machinery and fuel - www.biofuelsystems.com

Bioroute: Suppliers of biodiesel - www.bioroute.co.uk

Regulations and legislation

Department for Trade and Industry: Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) - www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/divisionhomepage/610328.hcsp

Environment Agency: Biodiesel regulations - www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/857406/1173616/

European Commission: An EU strategy for Biofuels - www.managenergy.net/products/R1247.htm

Facts and figures

Home-Grown Cereals Authority: Biofuels facts and figures - www.hgca.com/content.template/18/0/Industrial/Industrial/Industrial%20Home%20Page.msp

Publications

IEA Bioenergy Task 39. Publications on Liquid biofuels from biomass - www.task39.org

Defra: Publications on biofuels - www.defra.gov.uk/farm/crops/industrial/research/research.htm#biofuels

Department for Trade and Industry: Publications on biofuels -

www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/publication/biofuels/page24095.html