



Facts and Figures

- From 15th April 2008, all fuel companies will be obliged to replace a certain percentage of their annual fossil fuel sales with biofuels. This is set at 2.5% for 2008, rising to 5% in 2010. The UK fuel market is currently around 40 million tonnes – 2.5% equates to one million tonnes, and 5% equates to two million tonnes.
- Biodiesel can be made from crops that produce suitable oils such as oilseed rape, palm, and soya. It is generally blended with diesel to be sold at the pump.
- Bioethanol is an alcohol, produced in a similar way to those used in spirits. However, it's not recommended for drinking! Like these products it requires crops such as wheat, maize, sugar beet, and sugar cane that contain starch or sugar which can be converted into alcohol. Bioethanol is usually blended with petrol.
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN estimates that no more than 1% of the available land for agriculture in the whole world was used for biofuels in 2004. They also estimate that this will only rise to 2% by 2030.
- The UK is more than capable of producing the bioethanol and biodiesel necessary to meet the RTFO target of a 5% inclusion rate. For instance, set-aside land could make a major contribution. It accounted for 513,000 hectares in 2006, and bare fallow land amounted to 150,000, totaling over 10% of the available land for crops in the UK.

- The price of raw material represents only a tiny proportion of the total cost of most food products. For example, the cost of cereals makes up only 1 – 5% of the total cost of bread. (Speech by Marian Fischer-Boel, EU Agriculture Commissioner, May 2007)
- Under 1% of palm oil imported into the EU is used in biofuel production
- Under 2% of wheat produced in the EU is currently used in biofuel production. No wheat is currently used to produce bioethanol in the UK.
- Over 7.5 million hectares, out of a total of 18 million hectares, of land in the UK is now covered by agri-environment schemes, a figure 10 times greater than the area covered by the set-aside scheme
- The first 'Model T Ford' cars produced in America were designed to run on ethanol produced from corn
- Research by the Central Science Laboratory has demonstrated that bioethanol made from wheat and biodiesel made from oilseed rape have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% and 53% respectively compared to conventional fossil fuels.
- Research in the UK has shown that biodiesel can produce energy savings of 97% compared to normal diesel, if the rapemeal which is produced as a result of the processing is used as a source of fuel. (North East Biofuel Supply Chain Carbon Intensity Assessment (2006)).
- Road transport emissions in England went up by 12% between 1997 and 2006 (Environmental Audit Committee, 'Pre-Budget Report March 2008). They now make up a quarter of the UK's total emissions.

-Ends-

For more information contact:

Peter Crowe or Sophie Hadden at the Ceres Partnership on 01604
654260/07967 504024 or email: peter.crowe@ceres-pr.co.uk.