Biofuels by the Numbers

Renewable Fuel Standard
The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program is a national policy establishing mandatory minimum volumes of renewable fuels to be used for transportation and heating fuels. The Renewable Fuel Standard calls for **36 billion gallons of renewable fuels a year by 2022**. That’s equivalent to 1/4 of the volume of gasoline consumed in 2015. Renewable fuels include ethanol and biodiesel.

Most of the energy contained in biofuels is consumed by the transportation sector.

- **Ethanol**
  - 1,133 TBtu

- **Biodiesel**
  - 188 TBtu

How much energy is in a trillion Btu? (TBtu):
- Enough to supply 3,195 Americans for a year
- Enough to drive coast to coast 87,000 times
- Enough to fly around the world 12,000 times

U.S. Ethanol Production:
- The U.S. produced 14,806 million gallons of ethanol in 2015 (96% of biofuel production)
- 5,209 million bushels of corn between 9/2014-8/2015 went to ethanol
- Nearly all ethanol made in the U.S. comes from corn
- Ethanol can also be made from non-food sources such as ag and forest waste, woody crops, and switchgrass - these make cellulosic ethanol
- To qualify under the RFS, renewable ethanol must reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%

U.S. Biodiesel Production:
- The U.S. produced 1,263 million gallons in 2015 (4% of biofuel production)
- 4,908 million pounds of soybean oil went to biodiesel in 2015
- 56% of biodiesel feedstock was soybean oil in May 2016
- Biodiesel can also be made from other vegetable oils (e.g. canola), used cooking oils, and algae
- To qualify under the RFS, biomass-based diesel must reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50%

U.S. Transportation Fuel (2014)
- 5% Biofuel
- 3% Other
- 92% Petroleum

Petroleum transportation fuels account for 26% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

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