

Ethanol and The Environment

Fact Sheet

Q#1: What are the environmental benefits of using ethanol?

- Mandating ethanol in Manitoba at 10 percent blends will displace consumption of 143 million litres of gasoline – an imported fossil. The Green House Gas emission reductions are equivalent to taking approximately 10,000 vehicles off the road.
- Mandating ethanol in Manitoba at 10 percent blends will cut GHG emissions from the consumption of gasoline by 5 percent or approximately 135,000 tonnes per year.
- According to data in a recent study commissioned by Natural Resources Canada, MANITOBA ETHANOL BLENDED AT 10% WITH GASOLINE WILL BE THE CLEANEST GRAIN BASED ETHANOL IN NORTH AMERICA! (due to renewable electricity used in production process – new plants only).
- Manitoba made ethanol will result in 44% more energy gained than is required to produce it.
- Mandating ethanol in Manitoba at 10 percent blends will reduce carbon monoxide from the tailpipe by up to 25 percent
- Ethanol use reduces particulate emissions substantially - anywhere between 25 percent and 32 percent depending on the vehicle. Particulates have been fingered as a cause of respiratory ailments. Ethanol displaces the uses of toxic gasoline components such as benzene - a carcinogen.
- The American Lung Association of Chicago credits ethanol with reducing smog-forming emissions in the city by 25 percent since 1990.
- Ethanol has received the ECO-LOGO designation from Environment Canada, recognizing its environmental benefits over conventional gasoline.

Q#2: I know ethanol itself is clean and renewable but what about ethanol plants themselves? Are they harmful to the environment?

- The Manitoba Government will require state of the art energy efficiency in new ethanol plants. Modern production techniques cut down and in some cases eliminate particulates that would otherwise be thrown into the air.
- Concerns with the use of fresh water in ethanol production are also based on outdated information. Ethanol production processes have improved significantly over the last 20 years. An 80 million litre modern plant is expected to use less water than a plant built 20 years ago that is 1/8 the size.

Phone Manitoba Ethanol Office at 945-EGAS or toll free at 800-945-8299 ext. 3427 for more information. You can also reach us by email at ethanol@gov.mb.ca