



PRESS RELEASE

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European ethanol's greenhouse gas savings increase 8.5% in 2015, now at 64% direct savings – new industry statistics

Brussels, Today – European ethanol's direct greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) savings compared to fossil fuel have increased from 59% in 2014 to 64% in 2015, an increase of 8.5% against the 2014 figure, according to new industry statistics published by the European renewable ethanol association (ePURE). The [European renewable ethanol industry - Annual statistics report 2016*](#), independently audited by Swiss-based company [Copartner](#), therefore confirms that European ethanol is a low carbon transport fuel that can very significantly reduce average direct GHG emissions from petrol.

Another key finding of the report is that virtually all (99%) of the agricultural crops and residues used to produce European ethanol in 2015 were grown in Europe, providing European farmers with a vital source of income at a time when the EU agriculture sector faces increasingly negative pricing constraints.

"This audited statistical report reinforces yet again European ethanol's strong credentials as a low carbon transport fuel. However, despite ethanol's 64% certified savings and confirmed low land use impacts our sector faces the bizarre situation that the European Commission seems intent on phasing out readily available conventional ethanol. The Commission instead needs to promote, not hamper, all available low carbon transport solutions, including ethanol, if they are to succeed in their fight to reduce transport emissions", said Robert Wright, Secretary- General of ePURE.

A summary of the annual statistics report:

Greenhouse gas savings

- EU ethanol's average direct GHG emission saving increased by 8.5%, to 64% in 2015.
- Since the EU biofuels policy was introduced in 2009, EU ethanol's average savings increased by 28%, from 52% in 2009 to 64% in 2015.

Ethanol production

- Ethanol production remained static in 2015, with 5.8 billion litres produced.
- 78% (4.54 billion litres) of the ethanol produced was sold to the biofuel market.

Co-products

- European ethanol producers produced 5.88 million tonnes of co-products in 2015, of which 84% (4.89 million tonnes) was high-protein, GMO-free animal feed.

Feedstocks

- In 2015, 37% of the ethanol produced was from corn, followed by wheat (33%), sugars (20%), with the rest being other cereals and cellulosic material, wastes and residues.
- Virtually all of the feedstocks (99%) used to produce EU ethanol in 2015 were grown in the EU by European farmers.

*Containing data from ePURE members who represent about 85% of the installed ethanol production capacity in Europe.

Contact Details:

Mr. Barry Magee
Communications Manager
ePURE
T: +32 2 657 66 79
E: magee@epure.org

www.epure.org

About ePURE

The European renewable ethanol association (ePURE) represents the interests of European renewable ethanol producers to the European institutions, industry stakeholders, the media, academia and the general public. Based in Brussels, ePURE represents 42 member companies, with production plants in 16 member states, accounting for about 85% of the installed renewable ethanol capacity in Europe. The organisation, established in 2010, promotes the beneficial uses of ethanol throughout Europe.