



# THE BENEFITS OF BIOETHANOL

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## SUMMARY

The article discusses the benefits of bioethanol as a substitute for petroleum in the U.S. and criticizes the slow progress of the EU and Germany in the use of biofuels and the energy transition. It stresses the need to switch mobility to biofuels in order to improve environmental and climate protection.

## EEG unsuitable for climate protection

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Many people know that cars for ethanol (E85) were built in series in the USA as early as 1908. But the fact that there are already more than 18 million so-called flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) cars and SUVs on the road in the USA today and have achieved a market share of 14.5 percent is probably not known to many people.

Last year, 35 million tons of crude oil were replaced by bioethanol in the United States, saving the environment over 80 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. While the EU recently decided to amend the RES Directive, according to which the market share of biofuels should reach ten percent by volume by 2020, the share of bioethanol in the USA was already 11.8 percent in 2014.

When Germany introduced E10 in 2011, the responsible politicians left the implementation of the directive to the oil companies. Those who have no interest in damaging their fossil fuel market. The introduction was cleverly combated by aggressive claims: they simply made the goat the gardener and (almost) everyone fell for it. Even today, motorists believe that E10 is destroying their engines, food prices are being cut down by agrofuel rises, rainforests are being cut down and hunger is causing hunger in the world.

### The Energy transition

Most well-meaning people seem to believe that energy is merely electricity and heat consumption, and that the environment and climate can be adequately protected by switching to green electricity. But anyone who thinks that the topic of the energy transition can be ticked off in a trivial form in this way and that they can flee from the TV again with peace of mind if they also buy an electric car is mistaken. It would have been sitting in the cold and dark for a long time if some of the conventional power plants did not ensure a reliable and economically viable energy supply.

Environmental associations proudly announce that Germany's share of green electricity exceeded the 30 percent mark in 2014. More than 614 TWh of electricity were produced, but only 511.5 TWh were consumed. After deducting grid losses (24 TWh), 78 TWh were deported abroad. There, subsidized by the EEG, customers only pay the market price. In 2014, this energy transition cost taxpayers more than eight billion euros.

## **The environment**

The development of the specific CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the German electricity mix shows astonishing things in direct comparison with the expansion of renewable electricity generation: When the share of renewables was 17 percent in 2010, the emission factor was 563 g CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh generated. By 2013, the expansion of green electricity had increased to 24.7 percent. However, the CO<sub>2</sub> emission factor increased to 643 g CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh. Is this the environmental and climate protection that our politicians have in mind?

But since even the most ignorant among them realize a certain connection between the two holes in their wall and the steaming chimneys of the power plants, they demand even more wind turbines, even more photovoltaics and more supposedly ecological nonsense from the supposedly inexhaustible pot of renewable energies as a learned alibi.

## **What to do**

Crude oil is a commodity that will run out in the foreseeable future. The current EEG is not suitable for reducing our dependence and making a contribution to environmental and climate protection. It is precisely our dependence on oil that endangers our economy and makes us susceptible to political blackmail. We need to start consistently switching mobility to biofuels. The necessary technology is available at low cost, and the infrastructure has been set up at short notice. Biofuels can already meet all the requirements for sustainability, climate, hunger and food prices.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST



*Sincerely, Bernd Ahlers*

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