

Biodiesel Sustainability Information Sheet

Product Description:

Biodiesel is a renewable fuel that can be blended into diesel fuel or, in some cases, used as a standalone substitute. It is made through a process called transesterification, which purifies the renewable feedstocks by reacting them with an alcohol. Current diesel specifications allow for blends up to 5% (B5 – ASTM D975), but higher-level blends, such as 20% blends (B20 – ASTM D7467), are becoming more popular. Biodiesel uses a wide range of fats, plant oils and waste products from the food and restaurant industries. In addition, According to U.S. EPA, biodiesel has a maximum greenhouse gas emissions reduction of up to 86% compared to baseline petroleum diesel.

Product Category:

Diesel Fuel (ASTM D975).

Lifecycle Analysis:

Conducted by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) it is a well-to-wheel analysis that includes feedstock production and transportation, fuel production and distribution, and use of the finished fuel (tailpipe emissions including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, based on the estimated average emissions for the United States vehicle fleet) and co-products.

- **Range:** PER EPA ANALYSIS, minimum 50% reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions relative to baseline diesel (described below) and up to 86% depending on feedstock inputs.

RFS Program Approved Feedstocks for Biodiesel	
Source: Table 1 to § 80.1426	<i>Feedstock</i>
	Soybean oil; Oil from annual cover crops; Oil from algae grown photosynthetically; Biogenic waste oils/fats/greases; Camelina sativa oil; Distillers corn oil; Commingled distillers corn oil and sorghum oil
	Canola/Rapeseed oil
	The non-cellulosic portions of separated food waste and non-cellulosic components of annual cover crops

Baseline Diesel:

97 kg CO₂e/mmBtu .

1. <https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/lifecycle-analysis-greenhouse-gas-emissions-under-renewable-fuel>
2. <https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/approved-pathways-renewable-fuel>
3. <https://www.epa.gov/fuels-registration-reporting-and-compliance-help/lifecycle-greenhouse-gas-results>

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