

March 2026

Biofuels

Each month we review the latest news and select key announcements and commentary from across the biofuels sector.



**Announcements
& Commentary**



**Research &
Development**



Providing clients with a strategic view of feedstock, technology, policy and marketing opportunity across the bioeconomy.



Welcome readers, to this month's Biofuels News Review.

The recent oil shock triggered by war in the Middle East has exposed, once again, how vulnerable the global economy remains to geopolitical disruptions in fossil fuel supply. The surge in crude prices and freight costs has prompted Asian buyers to seek quicker shipments of vegetable oils according to news agent Reuters. As fossil fuel prices have climbed - over 25% - to hit heights not seen since mid-2022, palm oil's appeal for biodiesel production has soared. With analysts pointing out that palm oil is currently priced at a deep discount compared to gasoil, its financial edge as a sustainable feedstock has become much harder for the energy sector to ignore.

Global palm oil consumers have been benefiting from abundant feedstock supplies, with production in Indonesia and Malaysia reaching record levels in 2025, increasing stock volumes and subsequently putting a downward pressure on prices. With low prices and efficient export, Southeast Asian producers are positioned to meet additional biodiesel demand quickly, including from buyers in the Middle East and Europe seeking faster-moving, more flexible cargoes than traditional oil products. Yet this rapid expansion comes with tensions: competition from soybean oil on price, and wider sustainability debates around land use and feedstock choice, underline the need to align emergency energy measures with long term climate and environmental goals.

In North America, the crisis has reignited a long-running political debate with fresh urgency. The Renewable Fuels Association has renewed its call for Congress to pass legislation allowing the nationwide year-round sale of E15, arguing that events in the Middle East demonstrate the country's overreliance on foreign sources of energy. The arithmetic is compelling: in 2025, the US imported 314 million barrels of oil from OPEC countries, and a full national rollout of E15 would displace roughly half that volume with domestically produced bioethanol. Recent polling underlines the political appetite for action, with 78% of Americans expressing concern about fuel price volatility and an equal share believing renewable fuels are important to energy independence. Economists warn that even modest supplies of renewable fuel can significantly moderate the price impact of supply disruptions - a lesson the current crisis is teaching once again.

Meanwhile, in Europe, forward-thinking voices from Ireland's farming community are advocating a pragmatic reorientation of trade priorities to strengthen the EU's renewable-energy posture. Rather than importing beef that competes directly with local producers, the Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association argues that the bloc should prioritise Brazilian bioethanol under the Mercosur trade agreement - fuel that Europe cannot yet manufacture at the required scale.



With Ireland already successfully incorporating ethanol into its E10 gasoline and global fuel costs climbing amid Middle East instability, this proposal aligns perfectly with the Union's renewable-energy directives while enhancing energy security and sparing rural livelihoods.

Alongside calls to prioritise Brazilian bioethanol imports within EU trade talks, Irish political and farming voices are urging government to cut the standard VAT rate on hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) for agriculture, arguing that current tax treatment leaves this low carbon diesel substitute significantly more expensive than fossil fuel on farm. By lowering financial barriers to this high-efficiency "drop-in" fuel, proponents emphasise that it would make it a realistic replacement for conventional gas oil in tractors and machinery, delivering major emissions cuts while also reducing exposure to crude price spikes driven by instability in the Middle East.

Read on for the latest news

Policy

Trump invites farmers, biofuels producers to White House event



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U.S. President Donald Trump has invited farmers and biofuel producers to an agriculture event at the White House next week, two sources familiar with the planning said, as his administration moves to finalize new biofuel blending quotas.

The administration is preparing to finalize long-delayed biofuel blending quotas for 2026 and 2027 by the end of the month, a decision with sweeping implications across the U.S. energy and agricultural sectors.

[Click here for more information.](#)

The EU needs stronger safeguards for sensitive products such as bioethanol

European renewable ethanol producers are calling for increased safeguards in the EU's proposed revision of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences for trade, which grants preferential tariffs to certain countries. The provisional agreement reached by the Council and the Parliament in December 2025 introduces several positive changes for the ethanol sector, securing a more stable market for EU producers. While the proposed revision would strengthen safeguards for sensitive products such as renewable ethanol by lowering the threshold of increased volumes of imports from 57% to 45%, the European Parliament now has the opportunity to enhance these safeguards.

[Click here for more information.](#)

EWABA Position on the urgent need to revise or remove the Annex IX B cap under the Renewable Energy Directive

The full report can be found here:

[Click here for more information.](#)

UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS): Treatment of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) consultation

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) came into operation on 1 January 2021 following the UK's departure from the European Union (EU) and the end of the UK's participation in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The scheme is a key part of our approach to addressing climate change, setting a limit on emissions from the sectors covered and ensuring an appropriate price is applied to them. The scheme is jointly run by the UK ETS Authority (hereafter 'the Authority') which is comprised of the UK Government, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for Northern Ireland.

Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) is one of the key technologies that will help the aviation sector play its part in delivering net zero. SAF is a sustainable alternative to traditional aviation fuel, fossil kerosene. Although SAF produces comparable volumes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) as fossil kerosene when burned, it makes significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions savings across its lifecycle (it has the potential to achieve over 70% emissions reductions when compared to fossil kerosene). Aircraft operators can currently claim emissions reductions from eligible SAF and therefore reduce their UK ETS surrender obligations.

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Biodiesel

Brazilian city trials new biofuel aimed at replacing diesel entirely



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As widening conflict in the Middle East roils global energy markets, one city in southern Brazil is planning to run more of its municipal fleet on an innovative homegrown biofuel designed to replace diesel entirely.

Nestled among rolling expanses of soybean farms in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, the city of Passo Fundo is deploying a diesel alternative for its municipal fleet made from feedstocks including soy, animal fats and used oils.

Whereas traditional biodiesel is blended with petroleum-based diesel at a ratio of 15% in Brazil, the new fuel is designed to fully replace the fossil fuel in any vehicle that takes diesel, cutting carbon emissions and potentially reducing costs. Be8, one of Brazil's biggest biodiesel firms, received regulatory approval in late 2024 to start producing the new fuel, called BeVant, in Passo Fundo, aiming initially to make 28 million liters (7.4 million gallons) annually.

BeVant is a so-called drop-in for the fossil fuel and can be used in regular diesel engines without needing modifications, Be8 said.

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Stagecoach reduces 61,000 tonnes of CO₂ with Dieselite

Argent Energy, a producer of renewable fuels, supplied Dieselite to Stagecoach throughout 2025. By using Dieselite, Stagecoach has achieved a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across its bus fleet.

During the year, Stagecoach achieved an annual CO₂ reduction of 61,261 tonnes compared with standard fossil diesel. The savings were achieved across 7,000 buses in 18 regions.

Argent Energy entered into a fuel supply agreement with Stagecoach to support the transition of its diesel-powered fleet to a higher biodiesel blend. Dieselite is now supplied across 108 depots in England, Scotland and Wales, forming part of Stagecoach's wider decarbonisation strategy.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Canada imports record volume of soyabean oil for renewable diesel production

Canada has rapidly become the world's second-largest importer of soybean oil in the 2025/26 marketing year, with imports now expected to reach 800,000 tons. This dramatic rise is almost entirely due to the start of renewable diesel production in Newfoundland and facilitated by expanding trade with Argentina.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Updated approval list shows many commercial vehicles set for biodiesel high blends

Many trucks, buses, tractors, and construction vehicles are already approved for higher biodiesel blends, according to a list composed by the Association Quality Management Biodiesel (AGQM).

The list was published together with several German and international European associations such as the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) and the European Waste-based & Advanced Biofuels Association (EWABA). In the updated approval list, the AGQM compiled information from 20 vehicle and engine manufacturers, showing which commercial vehicles and engines can be operated without any problems with higher biodiesel blends or pure biodiesel.

The list is publicly available on the AGQM website.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Govt urged to cut VAT on HVO biofuel for farmers

A Fine Gael councillor is urging the government to urgently overhaul the VAT policy on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biofuel.

Louth county councillor and small farmer John Reilly said "HVO is a proven, low-emission, drop-in replacement for diesel".

Cllr Reilly, who previously worked in the oil industry, added that HVO is capable of reducing greenhouse gases by up to 90%, according to several independent industry assessments.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Bioethanol

Biofuels Group Calls for Year-Round E15 to Ease Wartime Oil Price Spike



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The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) is urging Congress to quickly enact an authorization for year-round use of 15 percent ethanol fuel (E15) to ease consumer fuel prices, amid a surge in oil prices resulting from the outbreak of war with Iran and the spread of conflict across the Middle East. "Once again, the events in the Middle East and the spike in oil prices demonstrates this country's overreliance on foreign sources for our energy," said RFA President and CEO Geoff Cooper .

[Click here for more information.](#)

Irish farming group says EU should import Brazilian bioethanol

An Irish farming organization says the European Union should prioritize bioethanol imports from Brazil over beef as fuel prices surge globally.

Edmond Phelan, Rural Development chair of the Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association, said recent events in the Middle East have disrupted energy markets and sent fuel costs soaring. He argues Europe should increase bioethanol supply and use to meet renewable energy targets while reducing reliance on volatile oil markets.

[Click here for more information.](#)

RCM Thermal Kinetics Completes Breakthrough Engineering Project, Expands 40MMGY Ethanol Plant to 105MMGY



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RCM Technologies, Inc. (NasdaqGM: RCMT), RCM Thermal Kinetics, a division of RCM Technologies, has announced the successful completion of the first project under its NEXT (New Ethanol eXpansion Technology) engineering program, which was launched in early 2025. This inaugural project marks a historic milestone: a Midwestern ethanol facility originally designed for 40 million gallons per year (MMGY) has now been scaled to 105 MMGY, the first time a standard 40 MMGY plant has surpassed the 100-million-gallon threshold while retaining its original distillation columns and without the addition of parallel columns.

The facility underwent a series of incremental expansions with Thermal Kinetics, first to 65 MMGY, then to 86 MMGY. That ceiling has long represented the practical limit for more than a hundred ethanol plants built to this standard design across North America. By applying NEXT, Thermal Kinetics has redefined that ceiling and demonstrated how advanced process optimization can extend the capabilities of legacy infrastructure.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Maritime Biofuels

Equinor enters bio-methanol agreement with Wallenius Wilhelmsen



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Equinor has entered into a 2-year bio-methanol supply agreement with Wallenius Wilhelmsen, a major global player in shipping and vehicle logistics, supporting a growing marine segment for low-carbon fuels.

Soon bio-methanol from Equinor will fuel ships that are bringing cars and machinery from points of production to markets. Wallenius Wilhelmsen is a market leader in roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) shipping and vehicle logistics and will use the bio-methanol as bunker fuel for its upcoming dual-fuel methanol vessels.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Aviation Fuels

Australians Back Locally Produced Sustainable Aviation Fuel and Regional Jobs

New research commissioned by Sydney Airport shows strong public support for building a domestic Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) industry, with Australians recognising the opportunity to create regional jobs, support farmers and keep more of Australia's natural resources and manufacturing capability at home.

Australia already produces many of the feedstocks needed to make SAF - from agricultural crops and residues to used cooking oil and household waste, yet much of this material is currently exported overseas to be processed into fuel.

Sydney Airport CEO Scott Charlton said Australia has a significant opportunity to develop a new regional industry centred on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

"Locally producing SAF would reduce aviation emissions while creating jobs, supporting farmers, and strengthening Australia's fuel security, and we continue to advocate for demand measures as part of the Australian Government's \$1.1 billion investment in low-carbon liquid fuels.

"The current conflict in the Middle East highlights the importance of mandates that attract global investment and secure a domestic fuel supply. Globally, SAF mandates are accelerating, and Australia must implement measures to boost domestic SAF production, using feedstock that would otherwise be exported."

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EcoCeres Calls for Open EU SAF Market to Support Climate Ambition, Fair Competition and Supply Security



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EcoCeres is pleased to announce the release of its new position paper, "Safeguarding Europe's Climate Goals: Why an Open SAF Market is Essential for Decarbonisation, Fair Competition and Supply Security."

As one of the leading producers of waste based sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), EcoCeres highlights the growing risk that trade defence measures targeting imported SAF could increase costs for airlines and passengers, reinforce market concentration and slow the scale up needed to meet ReFuelEU targets and Europe's wider net zero ambitions. Instead, the paper calls for open and free trade, clear and predictable SAF mandates, and targeted incentives and innovation funding that help close the price gap between SAF and conventional fossil jet fuel while strengthening fair and open competition across multiple SAF pathways.

[Click here for the full paper.](#)

Supercharging Sustainable Aviation Fuel Uptake: ISCC, OMV and Airbus Strengthen Credible Book and Claim Approaches

Scaling Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) is one of the central challenges facing the aviation sector. Meeting this challenge requires collaboration across the value chain, supported by credible frameworks that enable new ways of bringing SAF to market.

Against this backdrop, we at ISCC have partnered with OMV and Airbus to support the further development of the global SAF ecosystem. This collaboration is grounded in a shared focus on Book and Claim Chain-of-Custody models. Each partner brings a distinct perspective: energy production, aircraft manufacturing and operation, and sustainability certification.

[Click here for more information](#)

FatHopes Energy Appoints Global Engineering Leaders To Advance Development Of Malaysia's Strategic SAF Refinery

FatHopes Energy (FHE), in collaboration with Bin Zayed International (BZI), has appointed Technip Energies, through its market-leading consulting company Genesis, and Wison Engineering Ltd. to undertake the Technical Feasibility Study (TFS) for its proposed Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) refinery, marking a significant step forward in the development of one of Southeast Asia's most ambitious renewable fuel projects.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Events

28th - 30th April 2026
Argus Green Marine Fuels Europe Conference
Antwerp, Belgium

CONFERENCE

[Click here for more information](#)

5th - 7th May 2026
Global Maritime Decarbonisation 2026
Amsterdam, Netherlands

CONFERENCE

[Click here for more information](#)

22nd - 23th September 2026
SAF Global Summit 2026
London, UK

CONFERENCE

[Click here for more information](#)

20th - 22nd October 2026
Argus Biofuels Europe
London, UK

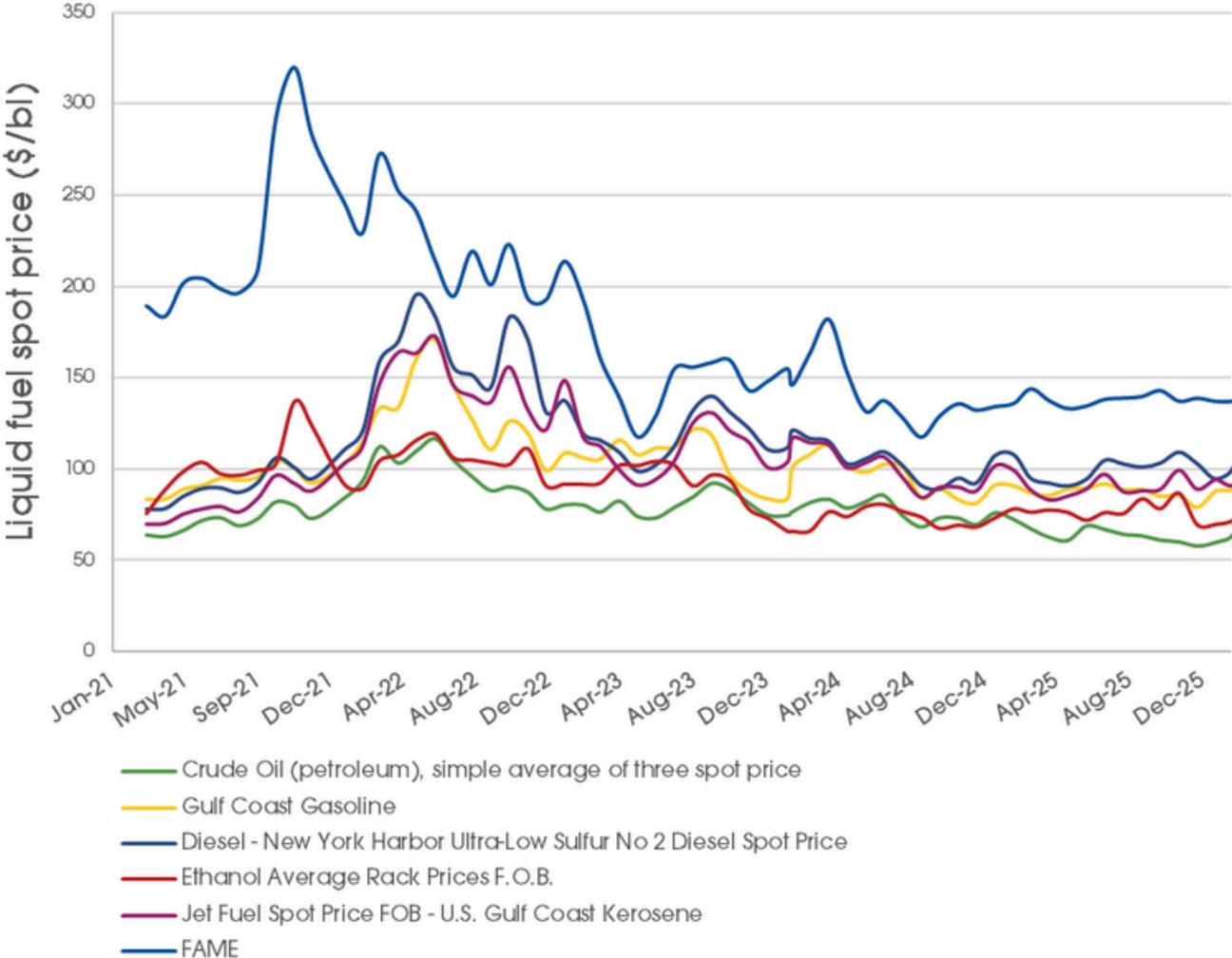
CONFERENCE

EXHIBITION

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Price Information

Historical spot prices of liquid fossil fuels and liquid biofuels. Five years of pricing up to February 2026 are given in \$ per barrel.



Prices of Crude oil, diesel, jet fuel, gasoline and ethanol are recorded from Trading Economics
Prices for FAME from Neste (NB: Prices for June to August 2024 and January 2025 to present refer to UCOME only)

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Alder BioInsights is a leading international consultancy with expertise on the conversion of biomass to bioenergy, biofuels and biobased products.

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