NEWS REVIEW

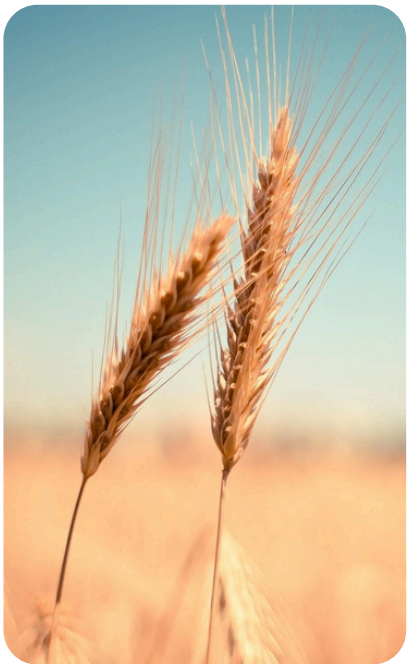
Alder BioInsights

April 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.

FOREWORD

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

The not-for-profit Zemo Partnership has launched RFAS Aviation, a voluntary assurance scheme designed to provide independent verification and traceability of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) across the UK supply chain. The initiative addresses a critical gap in the industry by establishing a consistent mechanism for fuel suppliers to prove the sustainability credentials of their products while helping airline operators demonstrate greenhouse gas emission reductions under the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS). By utilising a standardized SAF Declaration, the scheme tracks fuel from the point of blending through the distribution network to the airport, ensuring that data regarding production pathways, feedstocks, and lifecycle emissions are robust and auditable.

Developed in collaboration with the Environment Agency, the scheme aims to enhance transparency and prevent the double-counting of carbon credits by ensuring that aviation-specific fuel is not attributed to other sectors like heating. Valero Energy has become the first SAF supplier to receive approval under the initiative, signalling an important step forward for the UK's aviation decarbonisation efforts. As SAF volumes increase, RFAS Aviation is intended to provide the necessary infrastructure for credible communication between suppliers and customers, fostering greater confidence in the aviation industry's transition toward net-zero goals.

Recent commercial developments include plans from UK-based Octopus Energy Generation to invest up to £4.45 billion in a SAF facility in Canada, to be developed through its subsidiary Nova Sustainable Fuels at a coastal industrial site in Goldboro, Nova Scotia. Construction is expected to take around three years, with operations targeted to begin by 2031 following a final investment decision in 2028, and the plant is designed to operate for up to 50 years.

The plant is being positioned as a long-term industrial project, with construction expected to take around three years after a final investment decision in 2028 and operations targeted for 2031. Its commercial logic is tied to rising European SAF demand and blending mandates, while the site is also expected to be supported by more than 1 gigawatt of wind and solar power, and marine export infrastructure.

DHL and IAG Cargo have expanded their long-running SAF partnership with a new five-year agreement that will cover almost all the fuel linked to DHL Express cargo movements within IAG Cargo's network. Together with a 2025 renewal, the deal should enable around 240 million litres of SAF to be uplifted at London Heathrow, cutting lifecycle emissions from DHL Express cargo on British Airways flights by about 640,000 tonnes of CO_2e.

The SAF in the agreement is ISCC-certified and made from feedstocks such as used cooking oil, with roughly 90% lower lifecycle emissions than fossil jet fuel. DHL says the arrangement supports its goal of reaching 30% SAF use in air transport by 2030, and a broader framework could push total lifecycle emissions reductions beyond 1 million tonnes of CO_2e. There is also a broader commercial signal here. By linking a large freight operator with an airline cargo network, the deal helps de-risk SAF procurement and demonstrates how cargo customers can play a direct role in aviation decarbonisation, not just passenger airlines, across a complex supply chain.

Read on for the latest news

Policy

Malaysia to raise biodiesel blend target to 15pc

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Malaysia will raise its biodiesel-fossil diesel blending target up to 15pc (B15) from the current B10, the country's economic affairs minister Akmal Nasir said this week.

The country will first start with a B12 blend, which will use existing blending infrastructure without requiring additional investments, Nasir said. Malaysia's biodiesel production capacity for 2025 stands at 2.36mn t, while actual production for the year was less than half at 975,200t, he said. No timeline was laid out for a move towards the higher B15 blending target.

The higher B12 blend ratio should start next month, a biodiesel producer said, adding that they were awaiting further details from blenders. Another already received a request to deliver higher volumes of biodiesel.

Click here for more information.

CropEnergies welcomes UK Government support for British ethanol plant

CropEnergies AG, Mannheim, Germany, welcomes the UK Government's decision to provide substantial financial support to CropEnergies' British subsidiary Ensus UK Ltd, Wilton, UK.

The UK Government has agreed a funding package worth around GBP 100 million (ca. EUR 115 million) to keep the plant in a ready to operate standby mode, ensuring long term stability of the country's supply of biogenic CO_2, renewable ethanol for fuel applications and proteins.

Ensus is the last remaining major industrial biorefinery in the UK. In addition to ethanol for fuel applications and proteins, it provides biogenic CO_2 for a wide range of key sectors, including the food and beverage industry, healthcare and hospitals, the nuclear sector, and various industrial cooling and processing applications.

Click here for more information.

Markets

FincoEnergies and Scan Global Logistics partner on Biofuel Swap verifiable road transport CO_2e reductions

FincoEnergies and Scan Global Logistics (SGL) are strengthening their collaboration by implementing Biofuel Swap, a globally applicable solution for decarbonising road transport. With Biofuel Swap, SGL offers its customers immediate emissions reductions – with no changes to vehicles, infrastructure, or daily logistics operations – through utilising certified HVO100, a 100% biodegradable fuel, enabling verified, scalable CO_2e reductions.

The partnership between FincoEnergies and Scan Global Logistics is built on a successful pilot project launched in 2023 that tested and optimised insetting solutions for road transport, laying the groundwork for the implementation of the Biofuel Swap initiative in 2025.

Click here for more information.

Scramble for biodiesel as price drops below regular diesel for first time

Fuel suppliers in Asia are rushing to secure biofuels after they became cheaper than their fossil-fuel counterparts for the first time.

Click here for more information.

Biodiesel

EcoCeres and GDS Launch First HVO-Powered Data Center Backup Pilot in China

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EcoCeres Inc., a leading pure-play renewable fuel producer, has launched a pilot with GDS Holdings Ltd (GDS), a leading developer and operator of high-performance data centers in China, to use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as a low-carbon replacement for conventional diesel in data center backup power. The partnership marks one of the first applications of HVO in China's internet data center (IDC) sector and showcases a full circular-economy model from waste collection to low-carbon power.

As part of the pilot, EcoCeres has supplied HVO to a GDS data center in North China, where it is used as a direct, drop-in replacement for diesel in the sites' backup generators.

Click here for more information

Meloni-Backed Biofuels Project under Scrutiny Following New Investigation

Farmers say the Italian energy giant's green fuel drive has left them stranded

The Italian agent brought a flurry of excitement when he arrived in Kilifi County with news of a wonder-crop: castor.

Diego Barili was an intermediary for Eni, Italy's state-owned energy giant. If farmers in Kilifi, north of Kenya's port city of Mombasa, switched to growing castor, he said, he would pay life-changing cash for plants that Eni would turn into green fuel for customers including BMW, EasyJet and Ryanair.

Katsele Shauri Mitsanze was one of many who jumped at the opportunity. She planted castor across her smallholding, replacing maize she and her seven children relied on for food. They harvested the inedible castor beans and waited. But Barili's agents did not return.

"The officers said they would come and collect them but they never came," said Mitsanze, 40. "My family really suffered because of the hunger."

Click here for more information

Bioethanol

Toyota in talks on potential bioethanol project

Indonesia is in talks with Japan's Toyota Motor Asia on a potential joint investment in bioethanol production in the Southeast Asian country, a government official and executives from Toyota told reporters.

A renewable energy subsidiary of Indonesia's state energy firm Pertamina is discussing potential joint investment with Toyota Tsusho for a bioethanol plant in Indonesia's Lampung province on the southern tip of Sumatra, said Deputy Investment Minister Todotua Pasaribu.

If they reach a deal, construction on a plant with capacity of 60,000 kilolitres of bioethanol per annum could start in the second half of 2026, with production eyed in 2028, he said.

Click here for more information.

CO2 plant reopens to combat possible food shortages

A carbon dioxide (CO2) plant has reopened as part of a contingency plan against supply disruption caused by the war in Iran.

The plant in Teesside, operated by Ensus, manufactures bioethanol, which produces CO2 used in food and drink production and the slaughter of livestock.

It comes as the government warned the UK could face some food shortages by the summer, in a worst case scenario, if the conflict continued.

Ensus chairman Grant Pearson said it was important to protect "our key supply chains", while a government spokesperson said it was "continuing to work with business groups to tackle the impact of events in the Middle East".

Click here for more information.

Marine Biofuel

Nippon Biofuel selected for Japan backed marine biofuel project

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In Japan, Nippon Biofuel Co., Ltd. has been selected for a large-scale demonstration project under the "FY2024 Supplementary Global South Future-Oriented Co-Creation Program implemented by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). The project, with a total value of approximately JPY 7 billion (including JPY 4 billion in subsidies), aims to establish a new energy supply model integrating biofuel production and carbon reduction.

It will be implemented in Nampula Province, Mozambique, and the Bono East Region of Ghana, in collaboration with major Japanese maritime companies and certification bodies, contributing to Japan's energy security and Green Transformation (GX).

Key initiatives include:
• Establishment of a Jatropha cultivation model
• Production of Jatropha-based biofuel
• Development of bunkering systems in Mozambique, Ghana, Singapore, and Japan
• Fuel supply demonstration for ocean-going vessels and domestic vessels
• Carbon removal through afforestation and biochar production
• Development of rural income and community models
The project will be promoted as:
"Green Corridor Initiative – Integrated Biofuel & Carbon Removal"
• Annual supply capacity of 400,000 tons of biofuel by 2032
• A farmer-participatory value distribution model

Click here for more information.

Titan Clean Fuels Signs E-Methane Supply Deal with Turn2X for European Shipping

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Titan Clean Fuels has signed an off-take agreement with green energy supplier TURN2X to deliver e-Methane to the maritime industry from 2028 onwards. Titan operates seven bunker vessels and is able to deliver in around 52 ports today, so the new e-Methane agreement can help to significantly scale up green fuel supply.

TURN2X's modular and load-flexible production plant in Miajadas, Spain, converts renewable energy and biogenic CO_2 into ISCC-certified e-Methane. This green fuel is then fed into the grid and transported to major European ports, where Titan bunkers it to ship operators, helping them deliver on decarbonisation.

E-Methane can achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a well-to-wake basis, with exact reductions depending on the equipment and engine technology used. It also offers an up to 95% reduction of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and achieves virtually zero sulphur oxides (SOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions, such as black carbon (soot).[1]

Click here for more information.

Aviation Fuels

Delta Confirms Commitment to 10% SAF by 2030, Countering Media Reports

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Countering recent media reports indicating that Delta Air Lines has eliminated its goal to increase its sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to usage to 10% of fuel by 2030, a Delta spokesperson confirmed that the company "remains committed to our 10% SAF by 2030 goal,".

The spokesperson acknowledged, however, that "the technology has not advanced as rapidly as the industry or our ambitions require, and this represents potential risk for decarbonization ambitions across the airline industry."

Click here for more information.

Octopus Energy plans $6bn Canadian biomass-to-SAF plant

UK-based Octopus Energy Generation is planning to invest up to $6 billion in a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) facility in Canada, targeting growing demand across European markets.

The project will be developed through its Canadian subsidiary, Nova Sustainable Fuels, at a coastal industrial site in Goldboro, Nova Scotia.

Construction is expected to take approximately three years, with operations targeted to begin by 2031 following a final investment decision in 2028. The plant is designed to run for up to 50 years.

Click here for more information.

DHL and IAG Cargo deepen collaboration with major multi-year Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) agreements

The DHL Group announced a major expansion of its sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)* collaboration with IAG Cargo, the cargo handling division of International Airlines Group (IAG). The new five-year agreement, together with a previous 2025 renewal, will enable approximately 240 million liters of SAF uplifted at London Heathrow Airport and reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of DHL Express cargo transported on British Airways flights.

DHL Express will receive the Scope 3 emissions reductions from approximately 40 million liters of neat SAF per year, which together with the 2025 renewal, represents a lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 640,000 tonnes of CO2e. It covers nearly all of the fuel currently attributed to transporting DHL Express cargo within IAG Cargo's network. The SAF used in this collaboration is certified by International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC), is derived from sources such as used cooking oil, and achieves approximately 90% lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions compared to the fossil jet fuel it replaces.

The collaboration will be supported by a further framework agreement between DHL Global Forwarding (DGF) and IAG Cargo, strengthening the Group's cross divisional strategy to secure reliable and diversified access to sustainable fuels. This expanded DGF framework could increase the total volume across the DHL Group to over 1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions reductions on a lifecycle basis, further reinforcing the Group's ability to meet rising demand for emissions reduction services. This cross divisional approach helps underpin the growing market for logistics solutions leveraging sustainable fuels, and solidifies DHL's long term commitment to offering customers robust, future proof sustainability options.

Click here for more information.

Petrobras selects Honeywell UOP's Ethanol-to-Jet (ETJ) process technology

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Honeywell (NASDAQ: HON) today announced that Petrobras has selected Honeywell UOP's Ethanol-to-Jet (ETJ) process technology for project development at its REPLAN refinery in São Paulo, Brazil. Once approved, the project will deliver up to 10,000 barrels per day of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), representing the first large-scale ETJ initiative in Latin America.

Honeywell UOP's ETJ process technology uses ethanol as a widely available, renewable feedstock, providing an economically viable pathway to quickly scale SAF production. Petrobras' use of ethanol as a feedstock further underscores its commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions and reducing carbon emissions in aviation.

"Honeywell has a long history of providing innovative process technologies and technical expertise to reduce the cost to produce renewable fuels and help customers leverage new feedstock options," said Ken West, president and CEO of Honeywell Process Technology. "With Honeywell's ethanol-to-jet process technology, Petrobras is positioned to deliver low-carbon energy solutions leveraging abundant agricultural byproducts to create fuel, helping meet global demand."

Click here for more information.

Sora Fuel Closes $14.6M Round to Scale Air-to-Jet Fuel Technology

Sora Fuel, a climate technology company that makes jet fuel from just air, water, and renewable energy, today announced it has closed a $14.6 million round. The round was co-led by Spero Ventures and Inspired Capital, alongside super pro-rata investments from Engine Ventures and Wireframe Ventures.

Sora has proven that its proprietary system can capture CO_2 directly from ambient air and convert it into syngas in a single integrated step — co-producing hydrogen and completely bypassing the energy-intensive sorbent regeneration that accounts for over 90% of the cost and capital in conventional direct air capture (DAC). That breakthrough delivers the only economically credible pathway from air to finished fuel.

The new capital will fund the construction and operation of Sora Fuel's pilot production facility, designed to scale daily unit production of drop-in sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from gallons to barrels. The company expects to reach this demonstration milestone within 18 to 24 months – an unprecedented timeline for a venture-stage clean fuels company just two years old.

Click here for more information

Zemo Partnership launches RFAS Aviation to strengthen the verification of sustainable aviation fuel traceability in the UK

Sora Fuel, a climate technology company that makes jet fuel from just air, water, and renewable energy, today announced it has closed a $14.6 million round. The round was co-led by Spero Ventures and Inspired Capital, alongside super pro-rata investments from Engine Ventures and Wireframe Ventures.

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

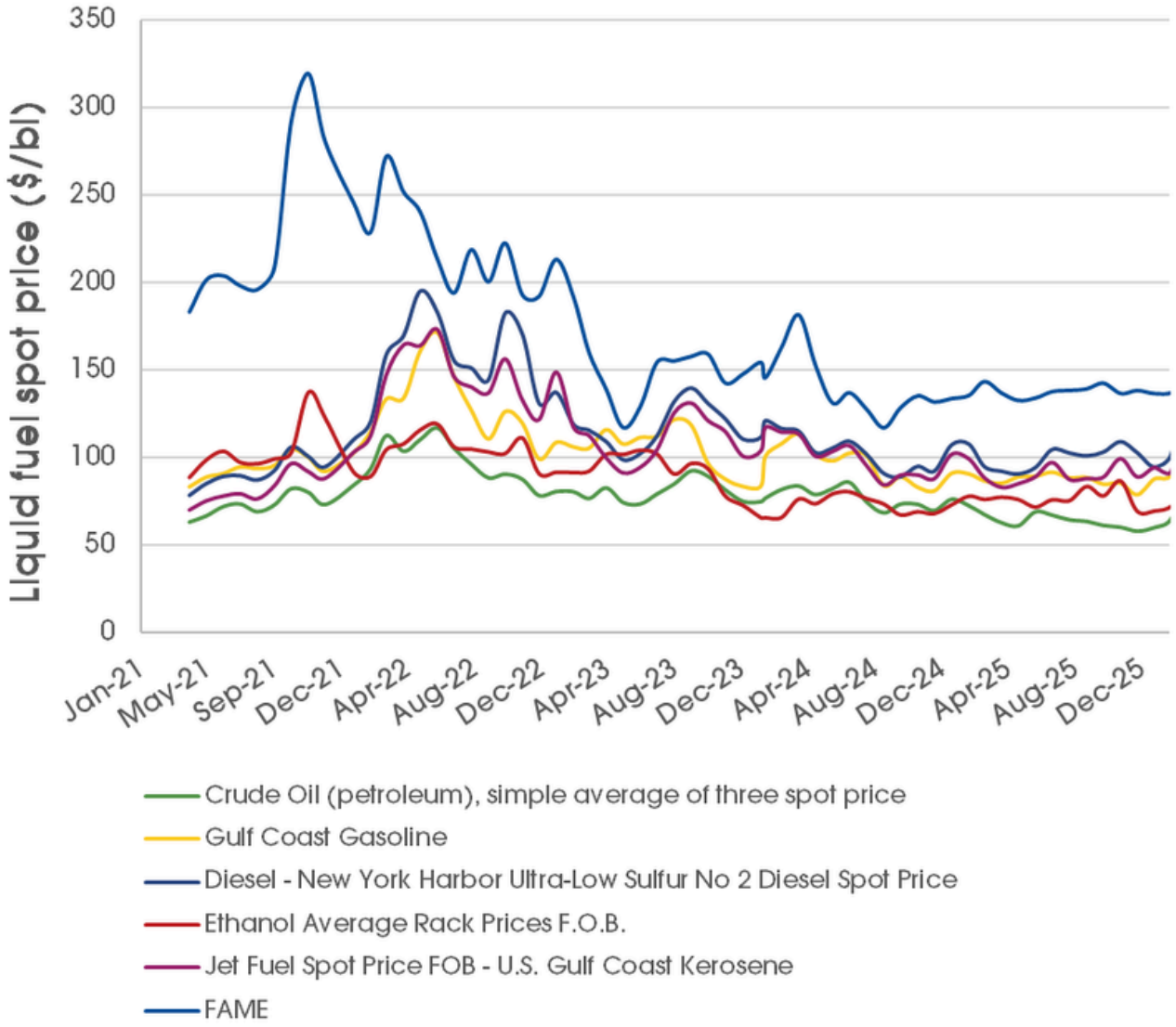
20th - 22nd October 2026
Argus Biofuels Europe
London, UK

CONFERENCE EXHIBITION

Click here for more information

Price Information

Historical spot prices of liquid fossil fuels and liquid biofuels. Five years of pricing up to April 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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