



For Immediate Release

Press Release

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New Energy Balance Study Shows Continued Gains in Ethanol

Washington, D.C. March 9, 2009: According to a new study released here today, the energy efficiency of ethanol plants is steadily improving, with modern ethanol plants using 20% less energy than just four years ago.

The *Net Energy Balance of Ethanol Production* study was released by the **Ethanol Across America** education campaign as part of the organization's Issue Brief series. Originally produced in 2004, this new edition looked at numerous studies and independent analyses of ethanol production facilities over the past decade.

U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), a member of the **Ethanol Across America** Advisory Board, noted that the study debunks outdated and erroneous information on ethanol plants that critics have used for the past 30 years.

"The facts speak for themselves in that today's ethanol plants are producing more energy in the form of domestic transportation fuels and using considerably less energy to do so," said Senator Johnson. "Energy audits, independent studies, and government research all confirm that ethanol is a net energy producer and that we are constantly improving technology."

U.S. Representative Lee Terry (R-NE), another member of the **Ethanol Across America** Advisory Board, said that it was important to go back and look at this issue at a time when reducing the use of fossil fuels is an issue of national importance.

"Concerns over climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gases will shape our energy policies for the foreseeable future," said Rep. Terry. "This study shows that biofuels like ethanol can play a key role in reducing CO₂ emissions. As we move into a new generation of sources for our ethanol, the reductions will be even greater. Cellulosic ethanol and fuels from various waste products can have a huge impact on lowering harmful emissions."

According to **Ethanol Across America**, this data will have a significant impact when used in modeling to determine the overall impact of biofuels on global warming. The Renewable Fuels Standard requires reductions in lifecycle CO₂ emissions and the Environmental Protection Agency is currently drafting regulations to meet this requirement.

"If EPA and others look at the data as we did, ethanol should get a star for what it has done, and what it can do, to meet and exceed the CO₂ reduction goals of the RFS," said Rep. Terry.

Copies of The *Net Energy Balance of Ethanol Production* Issue Brief are available at no charge and can be downloaded from www.ethanolcrossamerica.net. Hard copies are also available and can be obtained by email request to CFDCINC@aol.com.

The Issue Brief series and the **Ethanol Across America** Education campaign is produced and distributed through the non-partisan, non-profit Clean Fuels Foundation. It is sponsored by the America Coalition for Ethanol, the Clean Fuels Development Coalition, the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, the Nebraska Ethanol Board, and the Nebraska Public Power District.

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Ethanol Across America is a non-profit, non-partisan education campaign of the Clean Fuels Foundation and is sponsored by industry, government, and private interests. For more information, log on to www.ethanolcrossamerica.net

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