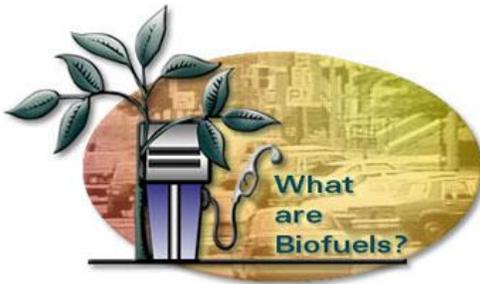




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## What Are Biofuels?



***Biomass can be converted directly into liquid biofuels for use in our vehicles. The two most common types of biofuels are ethanol and biodiesel.***

### **Ethanol**

Ethanol (an alcohol) is currently made primarily from the starch in corn grain. It's most commonly used as an additive for petroleum-based fuels to reduce toxic air emissions and increase octane. Today, around one-third of the gasoline sold in the United States includes 5%10% ethanol.

Ethanol is also available as an alternative fuel. E-85 is an alternative fuel blend containing 83% ethanol in the summer and 70% ethanol in the winter. Flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) have corrosion-resistant fuel systems and other modest modifications to accommodate either E-85 or regular gasoline. The largest U.S. automobile manufacturers each offer several models as flexible fuel vehicles at little or no additional cost. Currently, there are more than 200 E-85 fueling stations in 30 states for flexible fuel vehicles.

For a more detailed description of Ethanol, check out this article in our resource guide entitled [What is Ethanol](#) .

### **Biodiesel**

Biodiesel is made primarily from soybean oil. Its use is currently relatively small, but its benefits to air quality are quite dramatic. A recently enacted subsidy should greatly stimulate use.

Biodiesel is typically blended at 20% with petroleum diesel. This fuel blend is called B-20. B-20 is used chiefly by vehicle fleets, which get credit for using alternative fuel vehicles without having to purchase new vehicles. B-20 is also available to individual consumers with diesel vehicles. There are nearly 180 B-20 fueling stations in about two-thirds of the states.

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