

UCO to biodiesel chain towards 2030 — *Brussels Round Table*



UCO industry charts its path to carbon cutting

Brussels, 3 March 2015 — Europe's nascent household waste-to-biofuels industry needs to develop initiatives to establish best practice and increase transparency and efficiency. This will cement the carbon saving credentials of waste biodiesel in the minds of policymakers and the European public as the EU shapes its long-range carbon savings strategy, industry stakeholders agreed at a policy round table hosted by the European Biomass Industry Association in Brussels on 3 March.

An overview of the commission-sponsored RecOil initiative to establish waste biofuel collection and manufacture best practice provided some pan-European pointers for the industry going forward.

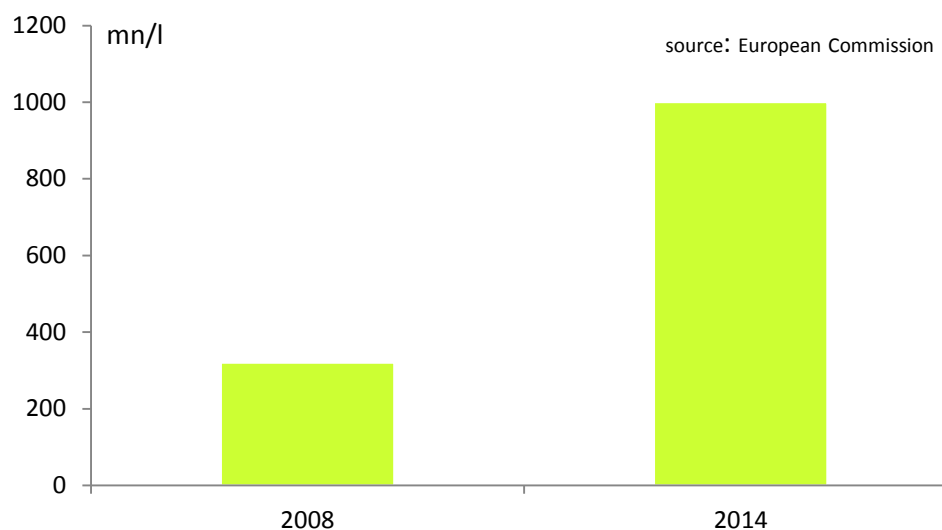
To increase sustainable biodiesel production

and its local market intake RecOil has established pilot projects and undertaken household and expert surveys on best practice in five countries in as well as analysis of the legal and market frameworks on an EU and national level. The project has established a database of existing waste collection scheme characteristics which start-up UCO collection schemes can cross-reference to improve their efficiency and get a head start.

Common denominators for success

RecOil's experience shows that successful schemes share certain common denominators. They typically benefit from local administrative support, with local stakeholders including municipal waste companies. And they typically require

The UCO industry needs to complement support schemes to continue its recent strong growth as a biofuel feedstock (SEE CHART RIGHT)



source: European Commission

massive promotion through multiple communications channels to gain critical mass in public awareness.

The industry is continuing to grapple with challenges of a technical and political nature at EU level which require a co-ordinated and pro-active response from industry to help steer its own future.

Renegotiations over the Fuel Quality and Renewable Energy Directives have shown warmer sentiment to waste biofuels in recent months. But waste biodiesel looks unlikely to qualify for quadruple accounting advantages under potential advanced biofuel promotion schemes post-2020 while member states will likely be left to decide their own positions on double-counting promotions.

The industry meanwhile still lacks a suitable legal framework with ambiguous definitions of what constitute waste byproducts compounded by missing guidelines on treatment, collection and recycling pathways.

Needing numbers

Collation of coherent quantitative statistics on supply versus demand balances and the development of regional price points will help the industry improve its promotional visibility and transparency in order to attract the investment it needs to achieve scaleable efficiencies and maximise its contribution to the fight against climate change.

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