



Biofuel

Unlike other renewable energy sources, biomass can be converted directly into liquid fuels, called “biofuels,” to help meet transportation fuel needs. Biofuels are transportation fuels like ethanol and biodiesel that are made from biomass materials.

Ethanol is an alcohol made from starches and sugars while biodiesel is generally made by mixing alcohol with vegetable oil, animal fat, or recycled cooking grease.

Biofuels are produced from living organisms or from metabolic by-products. In order to be considered a biofuel, a fuel must contain over eighty percent renewable materials.

These fuels are usually blended with the petroleum fuels – petrol and diesel fuel, but they can also be used on their own. Using ethanol or biodiesel means we do not burn quite as much fossil fuel. Ethanol and biodiesel are usually more expensive than the fossil fuels that they replace, but they are also cleaner-burning fuels, generating fewer air pollutants.

Nowadays biofuel is produced from plants as well as microbes. Recent research has shown that such microorganisms as algae or microalgae use the sun’s energy to combine carbon dioxide with water to create biomass more efficiently and rapidly than terrestrial plants.



ACTIVITIES

- 1 Summarize the text above.