

## Summary of REA feedstock modelling

### Introduction

The UK's Renewable Energy Association recently concluded a study to demonstrate how the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) target for 10% of transport energy to be renewable by 2020 could be met sustainably. The study was peer reviewed by a team from Imperial College, London.

### Key findings

- 80% of total demand can be met by EU production, without diverting any current EU food production to biofuels
- The remainder should be available from imports of sustainable feedstock or finished biofuel, although there will be competition for this from other uses

### Summary of results:

	2020 EU demand	2020 EU supply potential	Potential EU surplus
Gasoline/ethanol (billion litres)	24.4 to 28.2	42.7	<b>14.5 to 18.3</b>
Diesel/biodiesel (billion litres)	29.6 to 26.8	8.8	-18 to -20.8
<b>Total</b> (Mega tonnes oil equivalent)	<b>35.6</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>-7</b>

### Land use change

This helps reduce the risk of damaging land use change:

- The domestic production highlighted does not increase the overall area of agricultural land (other than reintroduced set-aside). There are therefore no net indirect land use change pressures
- The REA's modelling only credits the EU cereals land freed up by biofuel co-products used as animal feed. Although we have not quantified it for this study, the co-products will also displace soy meal which is currently imported from South America and is strongly associated with deforestation
- EU domestic production reduces risks of major biodiversity loss or destruction of carbon sinks due to strong land use regulations already in place

## Further information

The modelling shows what can be done using medium (rather than high) assumptions on:

- The contribution of '2<sup>nd</sup> generation' fuels
- Yield increases
- The role of biofuel co-products in mitigating land use pressures
- Amount of former set-aside land brought into production and likely yields
- The contribution from electric vehicles and biomethane – any greater contribution is an upside but it is vital to show the targets can be met sustainably without relying on them

## Policy recommendations

- Support robust sustainability standards in RED (and the extension of equivalent standards to all bioenergy)
- Ensure that any new measures to address indirect land use change give clear, long-term market signals to drive behaviour
- Support development of feedstock certification schemes
- Ensure the potential for yield growth is realised
- Support '2<sup>nd</sup> generation' technologies
- Support a significant domestic industry as the best way to ensure sustainability and have sufficient biofuels available at a reasonable price

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