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Washington, DC November 13, 2017 Viewing the Vehicle and
Fuel as a System:
The Economic
Implications of High
Octane Low Carbon Fuel

# Not All Vehicles Will Be Battery Powered









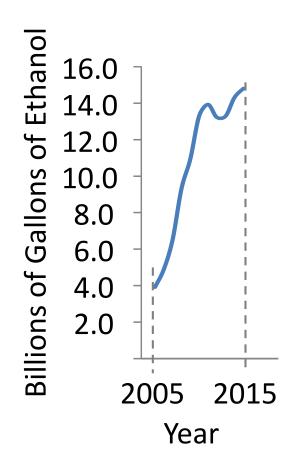
Certain Models Will Require Liquid Fuel

Much More Energy per Pound than Electricity

- Enables longer range
- Provides power to move more weight

Future Liquid Fuels Should be More Renewable and Cleaner than Today's Gasoline

# The U.S. Already Runs on Ethanol Blend Fuels



## Ethanol: To 10% of Our Fuel in 10 Years

Today, Most Gasoline is 10% Ethanol (E10)

- RFS drove ethanol demand & production
- Refiners chose to make E10
  - Gasoline blend stock octane lowered
  - Ethanol added to blend stock at terminal to replace that lost octane
- Finished fuel shipped to retailers

Our Fuel Infrastructure Designed for Ethanol

87 Octane E10 is Less Expensive than 87 Octane E0 Gasoline

## What Ethanol Blend Fuel is Best?

### What We Learned from E10

Fully Using Ethanol's High Octane Lowers Consumer Cost

We Can Do Better than E10

- Higher octane can enable high efficiency engines
- With more octane, compliance with standards is less expensive

A New Fuel is Best Implemented When:

- There is widespread support among diverse stakeholders
- The change is transparent to the public

Completing Research to Determine Optimum Blend Ratio

# Impact of High Octane Fuel on New Vehicle Cost

Fuel: 98 Research Octane Number (RON) E25

Vehicle: Meets EPA's 2025 Model Year Standards

- Higher compression ratio engines
- Widely available E25 fuel

EPA's OMEGA Model (Run by Air Improvement Resource)

- Simulated 2025 MY fleet
- Estimated overall costs of standards due to technology
  - Fleet average: Savings of \$436 per vehicle
  - Buick Enclave SUV: \$873 per vehicle

Findings Were Presented in SAE Paper 2017-01-0906

# Two Fuels Could Enable High Efficiency Engines

## Today's Premium Grade E10

- Could be refined to have desired properties
- Considerably more expensive than today's regular grade E10

#### Future E25 Performance Grade Fuel

- Begins with regular E10
- More ethanol added to boost octane
- Should cost the same or less than today's regular E10

## Is E10 Premium Fuel an Economically Viable Option?

## E10 Premium vs E25 Performance Grade Fuel

## Fuel Prices for 2025 to 2055 Annual Gallons Consumed

## Spot OPIS Prices in 2016 for:

- **Ethanol**
- Regular Blend Stock
- Premium Blend Stock

## Blended and Adjusted to Retail

- Transportation costs
- Wholesale to retail markup

Extrapolated 2016 Prices to 2055 Using EIA Annual % Increases

#### 2025 CAFE Standards

- Fleet average
- LD truck average (e.g., Enclave)
- Adjusted to reflect real world

Adjusted for Each Fuel in High **Efficiency Engines Using:** 

- Fuel energy density & miles traveled per year from EPA
- Thermal efficiency of fuel/engine combination

# **Tangential Questions**

## Is Their Enough Ethanol?

Due to declining fuel demand, only modest increases in ethanol production are required.

#### RIN Effects?

Most studies
suggest any effect
of RINs on 2016
prices are too small
to be measured
and impact after
2022 are unknown.



## Do EIA's Rates Change?

Ethanol volumes changes are minor. Reductions in U.S. gasoline demand likely offset by increased exports.

#### Is the Price of Premium Inflated?

Using spot wholesale prices as a starting point eliminates most of the price inflation.

## Are Additional Infrastructure Costs Significant?

Match blending = minimal refinery & terminal changes. New dispenser pumps work with E25.

# Link Between High Efficiency Engines and E25

Compared to a 2025 MY Vehicle W/O High Efficiency Engine, Average 2025 MY Vehicle Modified to Use High Octane Fuel



Saves \$590

Costs \$889



**₹** 

Saves \$32

E25 @ \$2.322 Per

Gallon in 2025

**Cost Difference** 

Vehicle (\$436)

Fuel (\$154)

Total (\$590)

Premium @

\$2.767 Per Gallon

(Without E25)

**Cost Difference** 

Vehicle (\$436)

Fuel \$1,325

Total \$889

Premium @ \$2.542 Per Gallon

(With Competition)

Cost Difference

Vehicle (\$436)

Fuel \$468

Total \$32

\$1,479 More than E25

\$662 More than E25

# Potential Savings Even Greater on Trucks

## Average 2025 MY Buck Enclave Using High Octane Fuel



Saves \$1,072

Costs \$780



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Saves \$288

E25 @ \$2.322 Per Gallon in 2025

**Cost Difference** 

Vehicle (\$873)

Fuel (\$199)

Total (\$1,072)

Premium @ \$2.767 Per Gallon

(Without E25)

**Cost Difference** 

Vehicle (\$873)

Fuel \$1,653

Total \$780

Premium @ \$2.542 Per Gallon (With Competition)

**Cost Difference** 

Vehicle (\$874)

Fuel \$586

Total (\$288)

\$1,852 More than E25

\$785 More than E25

## **Conclusions**

The Nation Already Runs on an Ethanol Blend Fuel – E10

The Ideal Blend May be Higher than 10%

- Ethanol offers plentiful low-cost octane
- Automakers want higher octane to comply with standards

Going From 10% to 25% Ethanol Creates a Fuel That:

- Has the octane of premium grade gasoline
- Costs less than today's regular grade gasoline

High Octane Fuel Enables More Efficient Engines But Today's Premium Makes This Strategy Too Expensive

# **Backup Slides**

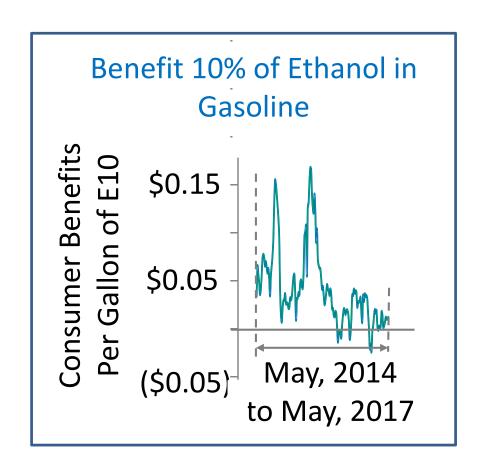
# The Consumer Benefit of E10 Defour Group Study Began May, 2014

## Used Weekly OPIS Prices for:

- Regular gasoline blend stock
- Premium gasoline blend stock
- Fuel Ethanol

#### Considers:

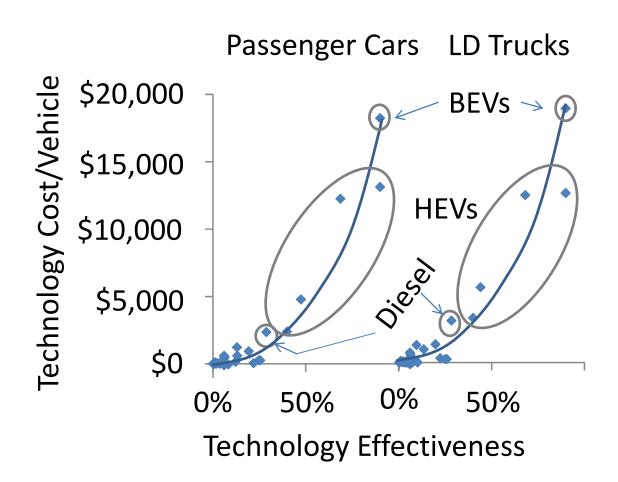
- Octane
- Fuel energy density
- Transportation cost differences
- Charge cooling



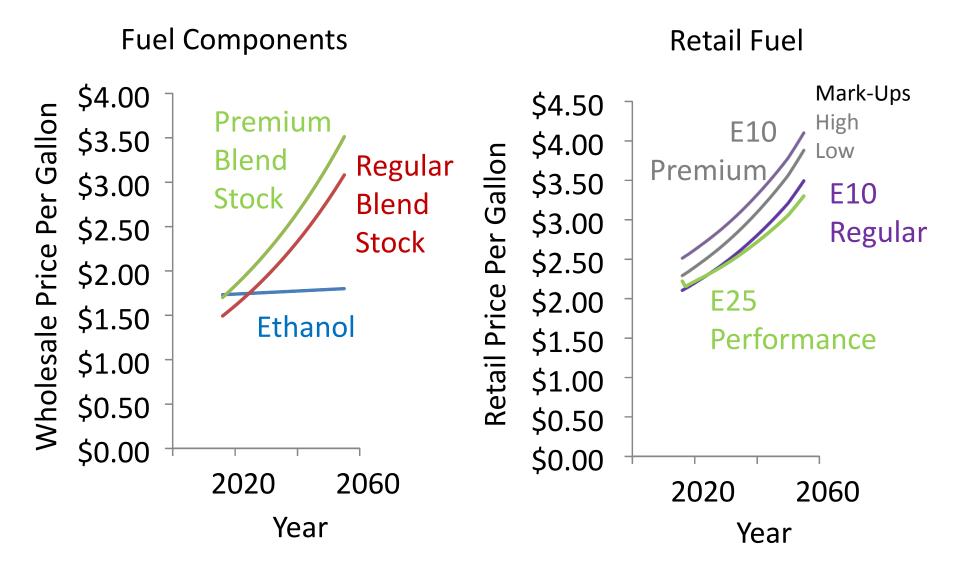
Compares Cost of a Gallon of 87 Octane E10 vs E0

# **How OMEGA Calculates Compliance Costs**

## **Technology Cost Curves**



# **Estimating Fuel Prices**



# Is Their Enough Ethanol?

