

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS

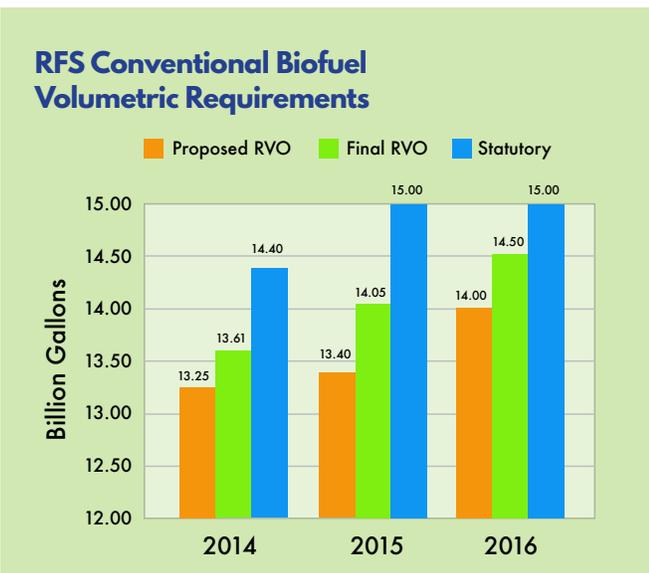


The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2015, and the occasion provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the program’s many successes. Originally adopted in 2005, the RFS was greatly expanded two years later with the goals of reducing petroleum consumption, combating climate change, and stimulating the farm economy.

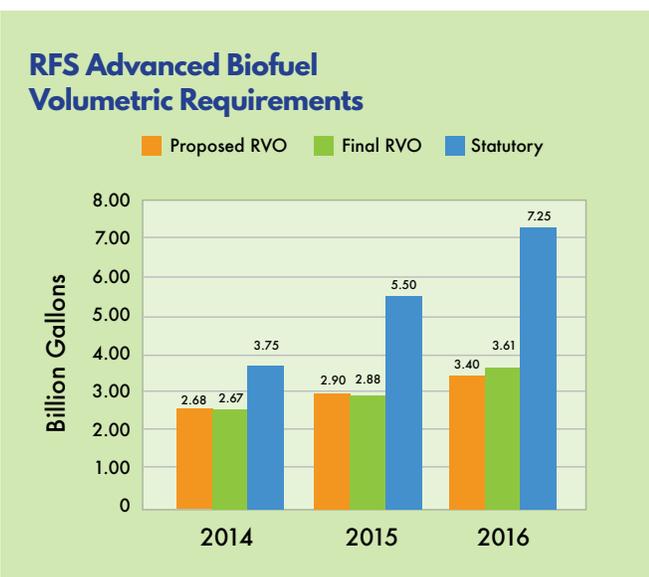
Without a doubt, tremendous progress has been made toward achieving the original objectives of the RFS. Biofuel production and consumption have grown dramatically. Dependence on petroleum imports is down significantly. Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation have fallen. The value of agricultural products rose to record levels. And, communities across the country have benefited from the job creation, tax revenue, and household income that stem from the construction and operation of a biorefinery.

Given the unmitigated success of the RFS over the past decade, EPA’s decision in 2015 to backtrack on the program left ethanol producers, farmers, and consumers feeling disappointed and frustrated. In May 2015, EPA proposed 2014-2016 RFS volume requirements that were far below the levels specified by Congress. In response to feedback from RFA and other RFS supporters, EPA released a final rule in November 2015 that slightly raised the volumes.

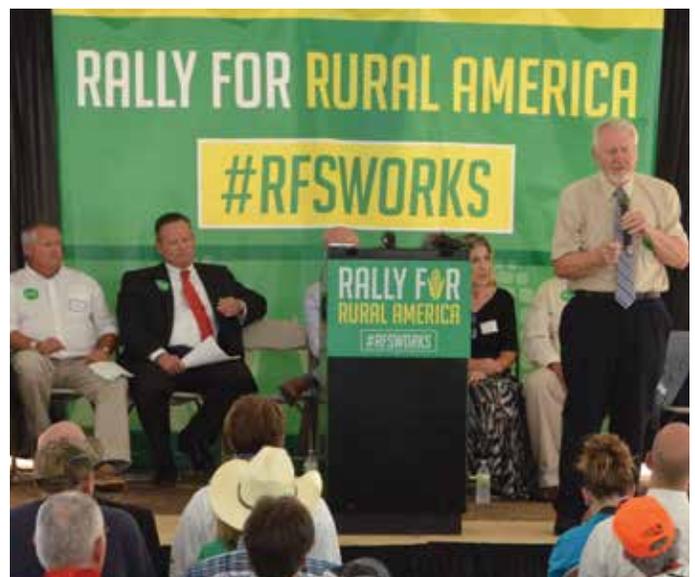
However, EPA’s final rule continued to rely on an unlawful methodology for setting the annual blending obligations. EPA suggested the cuts were necessary because the so-called “blend wall” prevents statutory volumes from being distributed. As the calendar flipped over to 2016, RFA and others continued to defend the statutory intent of the RFS and challenge the legality of EPA’s final rule.



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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Where do 2016 Presidential Candidates Stand on the RFS?

2016 is an election year. That means energy, environmental, and agricultural policy issues will again make their way onto the national stage. Specifically, presidential candidates will be asked where they stand on the RFS and biofuels. RFA and its partners at America's Renewable Future have closely monitored the candidates' positions on these issues.



Renewable Fuel Standard Statutory Requirements

(Billion Gallons)

	Total RFS	Total Advanced Biofuel	Cellulosic Biofuel	Biomass-Based Diesel*	Other Advanced Biofuel	Conventional Renewable Fuel
2008	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00
2009	11.10	0.60	0.00	0.50	0.10	10.50
2010	12.95	0.95	0.10	0.65	0.20	12.00
2011	13.95	1.35	0.25	0.80	0.30	12.60
2012	15.20	2.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	13.20
2013	16.55	2.75	1.00	1.00	0.75	13.80
2014	18.15	3.75	1.75	1.00	1.00	14.40
2015	20.50	5.50	3.00	1.00	1.50	15.00
2016	22.25	7.25	4.25	1.00	2.00	15.00
2017	24.00	9.00	5.50	1.00	2.50	15.00
2018	26.00	11.00	7.00	1.00	3.00	15.00
2019	28.00	13.00	8.50	1.00	3.50	15.00
2020	30.00	15.00	10.50	1.00	3.50	15.00
2021	33.00	18.00	13.50	1.00	3.50	15.00
2022	36.00	21.00	16.00	1.00	4.00	15.00

Source: Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007

*Biomass-based diesel volume must be 1 BG minimum beginning in 2012

Here's a look at what some of them had to say:

Gov. Jeb Bush: "I think you also have to be sensitive that there is a lot of investment in ethanol plants, they've made projections...based on having the RFS in place. So what I've proposed is that it be phased out post-2022."

Dr. Ben Carson: "[A]s far as the Renewable Fuel Standard is concerned, there were certain promises that were made that extend out until 2022. And many people, you know, invested a lot of time, energy and resources based on those promises that were made. Those promises have to be kept."

Gov. Chris Christie: "I have unequivocally supported the RFS. I will implement the RFS as President of the United States and support it. We have invested a great deal as a country in making sure we develop renewable fuels. The RFS is a way to continue that investment and make America stronger by giving us more energy options, not fewer."

Sec. Hillary Clinton: "Strengthen the Renewable Fuel Standard so that it drives the development of advanced cellulosic and other advanced biofuels, protects consumers, improves access to E15, E85, and biodiesel blends, and provides investment certainty."

Sen. Ted Cruz: "I don't think that Washington should be picking winners and losers. When it comes to biofuel, when it comes to ethanol, ethanol is competitive in the marketplace and will remain competitive in the marketplace without a federal mandate from Washington."

Sen. Rand Paul: "The goal would be that so much ethanol is produced and sold that you wouldn't need the mandate anymore. That scares some people. But at the same time, then you'd have a real marketplace and you'd get to the point."

Sen. Marco Rubio: "It isn't fair to yank away something in the middle of it, after people have invested in it based on an existing government program. So what I have argued is since it is already in place until 2022, let it stay in place until 2022 to respect the investment that people have made."

Sen. Bernie Sanders: "We have got to do everything we can to break our dependence on fossil fuel, move to energy efficiency, and move to sustainable energies. So I think we have to be supportive of that effort and take every step that we can, in every way that we can, including growth of the biofuels industry."

Mr. Donald Trump: "The RFS is an important tool in the mission to achieve energy independence for the United States. The EPA should ensure that biofuel blend levels match the statutory levels set by Congress under the RFS."