

Advocacy and Industry Support

As the COVID pandemic continued to disrupt normal routines in 2021, the Renewable Fuels Association began the year with an emphasis on digital tools for many of its activities, from Capitol Hill meetings to the National Ethanol Conference.

In February, the NEC was held “virtually” for the first and, we hope, last time. As vaccination rates increased and venues opened up, we were able to gather RFA’s board of directors together in St. Louis in July for the first in-person meeting since October 2019. It was at that meeting that our ethanol producer members unanimously committed to achieving a net-zero carbon footprint for ethanol by 2050 or sooner. They also pledged to achieve an average carbon intensity for ethanol that is 70 percent below gasoline’s carbon intensity by 2030 or sooner. Several months after RFA’s board adopted this trailblazing net-zero pledge, other major producers in the ethanol industry made the same commitment.

In late September, our annual membership meeting took place in Des Moines, and a new addition to the agenda—a New Uses Forum focused on emerging uses for ethanol outside of the gasoline pool—was a huge hit, drawing a standing-room audience.

Even with closed offices and telecommuting by many of our colleagues and other stakeholders, RFA continued to be a leading resource for information and advocacy on national policy and regulation. In September, for example, RFA President and CEO Geoff Cooper was invited to speak at a White House event on sustainable aviation fuel, a meeting that included several Cabinet members and other industry leaders.

RFA’s advocacy directly resulted in renewable fuel producers being specifically included as eligible to receive COVID-19 emergency relief aid. USDA announced \$700 million in pandemic relief specifically for biofuel producers, to be disbursed in early 2022. Meanwhile, our legal efforts paved the way for EPA’s proposed denial of all pending small refinery exemptions late in 2021.



Above: : In a “Virtual Day on the Hill” in April, the RFA Board met with many members of Congress, including (clockwise from upper right) Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Rep. Jim Hagedorn (R-MN), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN).

Right: New Uses Forum



Through RFA's committees, our members continued to direct the association's technical, safety, marketing, and research priorities. With regular interaction at RFA meetings, regular virtual events and conference calls, and the National Ethanol Conference, RFA members stay abreast of the policy, marketing, and technology developments that affect their bottom line.

Below: RFA Chairperson Jeanne McCaherty and President and CEO Geoff Cooper (center) were joined by NCGA President John Linder (left) and CEO Jon Doggett (right) at June's board meeting in St. Louis. The entire NCGA board leadership took part in the meeting.



RFA COMMITTEES

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Accurate and reliable information regarding the production, blending, distribution, and performance of renewable fuels is essential for the success of our industry. The RFA Technical Committee focuses heavily on fuel specifications and standards such as ASTM International, National Conference of Weights and Measures, ISO, Canadian General Standards Board, and other international fuel requirements. RFA members and staff continue to be recognized for their meaningful contributions within these standards development organizations.

Chair: Mark Gouthro, E Energy Adams LLC

CO-PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

The renewable fuels industry produces more than just ethanol. Renewable fuel facilities across the country also produce distillers grains, corn distillers oil, corn gluten, CO₂, and other products. The RFA Co-Products Committee focuses on issues relevant to all ethanol co-products, from research and educational programs to regulatory issues and trade. Members are involved daily in the production and marketing of co-products, making this committee an excellent forum for exchanging ideas and information.

Chair: Matt Fitzthum, CHS

NEW USES COMMITTEE

The RFA New Uses Committee focuses on expanded uses for our ethanol, carbon dioxide, co-products, and processes. Research and development projects like utilizing ethanol in heavy-duty engines or ethanol and carbon dioxide to greener chemicals are explored. The committee works to support R&D, technical and regulatory issues that arise from new uses.

ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Part of the industry's environmental record is helping to ensure ethanol production facilities are meeting or exceeding the environmental regulations they face. The EH & S Committee is focused on making sure our member company facilities are protecting the environment while providing a forum for navigating the complex regulations imposed on this industry. This committee's highly technical discussions help familiarize renewable fuel producers with relevant environmental regulations and ensure their facilities remain compliant. For more information, please click [here](#).

Chair: Steve Schleicher, Pinnacle Engineering Inc.

RFA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Renewable Fuels PAC builds a stronger voice for American-made renewable fuels on Capitol Hill. Organized and operated by RFA members and staff, this Political Action Committee promotes consistent and forward-looking public policy essential to the growth and evolution of the industry by focusing on federal election activity.

Chair: Randy Doyal, AI-Corn Clean Fuel LLC