



Department for Transport

# Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation statistics: period 8 2015/16, report 3

## About this release

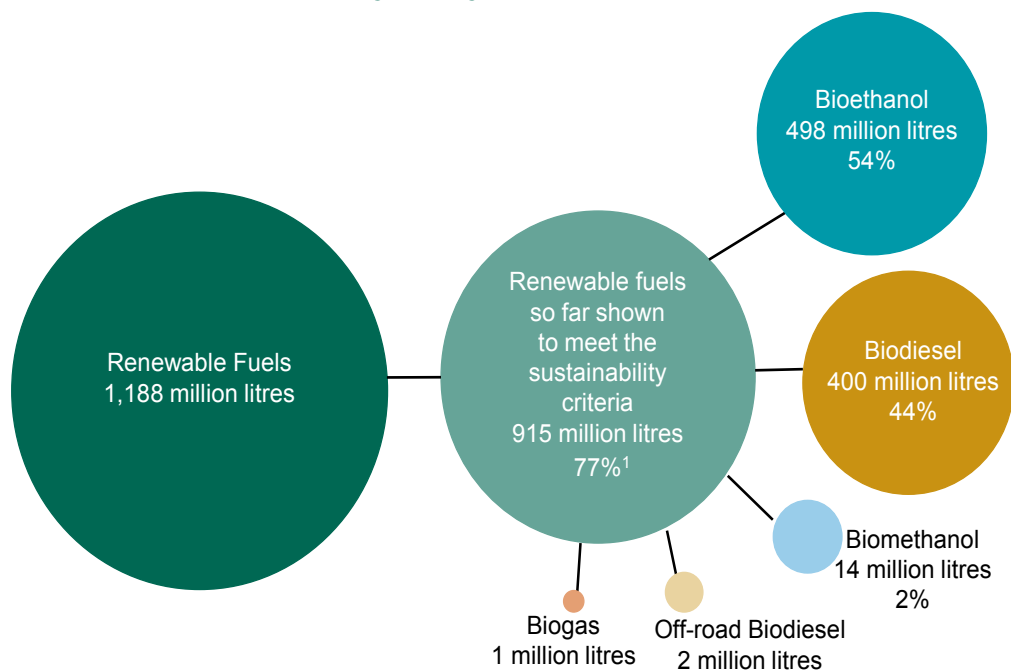
This quarterly release covers the supply of renewable fuels from 15 April 2015 to 14 April 2016, based on data available as of 15th March<sup>1</sup>.

It includes information on the volume of fuels supplied in the UK, as well as information on the sustainability of those fuels.

The tables associated with this release can be found [here](#)

The Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation Order (RTFO) requires transport fuel suppliers to ensure that a proportion of the fuel they supply comes from renewable sources (biofuels). The legislation is of key importance in our efforts to deliver reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from fuels used for transport purposes.

## Volume of renewable fuels, by fuel type



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## The headline figures for Period 8 (April 2015 - April 2016) are:

- 1,188 million litres of renewable fuel have been supplied, which is 3% of total road and non-road mobile machinery fuel.
- 915 million litres (77%) of this renewable fuel has so far been demonstrated to meet the sustainability requirements.
- Of the 915 million litres so far meeting the sustainability requirements, bioethanol comprised 54% of supply, biodiesel 44% and biomethanol 2%. There were also small volumes of biodiesel HVO, biogas and off road biodiesel.

<sup>1</sup>The deadline for applying RTFCs is 12 August following the obligation period



## Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates

Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates<sup>2</sup> (RTFCs) are awarded to transport fuels suppliers that meet sustainability criteria. These criteria ensure that biofuels deliver minimum greenhouse gas savings (GHG) compared to fossil fuels and that their production does not adversely impact on biodiversity.

- In Period 8 so far, **1,409 million** RTFCs have been issued to fuel meeting the sustainability requirements.
- This includes 989 million certificates which have been issued to “double counting” feedstocks.

## Carbon and Sustainability Characteristics

Certain carbon and sustainability criteria have to be met by suppliers in order to receive RTFCs.

### Doubled - Counted Feedstock

- Of the 915 million litres renewable fuels meeting the sustainability criteria 54% of biofuel was made from a waste/non-agricultural residue (double counting) feedstock.

### Country of Origin



- UK feedstocks account for 29% of the biofuel.
- The most widely reported source for biodiesel (by feedstock and country of origin) was used cooking oil from the UK (97 million litres, 11% of total fuel, 24% of biodiesel).



- The most widely reported source for bioethanol (by feedstock and country of origin) was sugar beet from France (80 million litres, 9% of total fuel, 16% of bioethanol).

### Contribution to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- An aggregate greenhouse gas saving of 73% compared to fossil fuels was achieved. Including emissions from indirect land-use change (ILUC) reduces this to 60%.

### Schemes for certification and traceability

- The majority (99%) of the biofuel was sourced via a voluntary scheme.
- The most commonly used voluntary scheme listed was ISCC at 87% of biofuel.

#### What is a voluntary scheme?

Voluntary schemes verify compliance with EU's biofuel sustainability criteria based on which RTFCs can be issued.

#### What is double-counting?

To encourage the use of fuels that represent environmental advantages some biofuels, such as waste-based biofuels and residues are issued with two RTFCs instead of one.

#### Carbon & Sustainability (C&S) Characteristics

Includes information on feedstock, biofuel production process, country of origin, previous land use, and voluntary schemes.

#### Statistical Tables

Tables for this [release](#) are available online.

The amount of UK road transport fuel from renewable and fossil fuel can be found in [RTFO 01.xls](#)

The number of RTFCs issued can be found in [RTFO 02.xls](#) and the balance of RTFCs by obligation period can be found in [RTFO 03.xls](#)

The transfer of RTFCs between operators and traders can be found in [RTFO 04.xls](#), C&S data can be found on [RTFO 05.xls](#) and the voluntary scheme data of renewable transfer fuel can be found in [RTFO 06.xls](#).

<sup>2</sup> To qualify for Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates, fuels supplied must meet the sustainability criteria set out in the [Renewable Energy Directive](#) and the [Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007](#).

### Sources of data in this report

Data on volumes of fuel, Road Transport Fuel Certificate (RTFCs) (issues, redemptions, surrenders, transfers) and Carbon & Sustainability (C&S) data is held by the Road Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) Administrator on the RTFO Operating System (ROS).

Fuel volume data is submitted on a monthly basis by fuel suppliers to the RTFO Administrator and validated against HMRC duty payment data.

C&S data is submitted as part of a supplier's RTFC application. As suppliers may choose when to apply for RTFCs, and if the application is not approved the renewable fuel is not regarded as sustainable, C&S data is only reported on once RTFCs have been issued. There will therefore be a difference between the volume of biofuel supplied and the number of RTFCs issued/C&S data available. This difference will decrease over time until the final deadline for issuing RTFCs has passed (15 November following the obligation period). The final report for an obligation period will show the final position.

Data on RTFCs (issues, redemptions, surrenders, transfers) are recorded in ROS as all are issued, traded and tracked electronically.

### Strengths and weaknesses of the data

The Administrator validates volume data submitted by fuel suppliers against that held by HMRC regarding fuel duty liabilities. This data may change over time even after validation against HMRC data as suppliers make amendments to the volumes of fuel they have supplied (and duty liabilities).

C&S data is verified by independent verifiers and is also checked against the RTFO Guidance by the Administrator.

Whilst the Administrator validates volume data against HMRC data at a company level, there is not an exact match between the volume of fuel reported in this report and the volume of fuel reported in HMRCs Hydrocarbon Oils bulletin. Reasons for this include:

### Further Details

Further information on the data can be found in the [Notes and Definitions](#).

### Next Update

The next publication will be on 4th August 2016.

Data are published quarterly.


Carbon and Sustainability data on biofuel supplied by fuel suppliers are published annually.

### Related Information

Previously published reports can be found on the DfT website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/biofuels-statistics>

The publication timetable can be found at Annex A.

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- Road duty is paid on fuel that is later proven to be for non-road use;
  - Differences between how fuel is categorised under the RTFO and by HMRC, in particular, the RTFO requires recording of fuels on the basis of their renewability but this is different than the categories HMRC use for duty coding (e.g. petrol used as denaturant in ethanol is recorded as ethanol by HMRC and petrol under the RTFO);
  - Accidental recording of fuel against the incorrect duty codes by suppliers;
  - Calendar month and quarterly duty payments being recorded against different supply periods under the RTFO and by HMRC (these are typically a month different);
  - Differences in when adjustments in duty payments are recorded. HMRC record these in the month the adjustment occurs: whilst this practice is usually followed under the RTFO there are exceptions around the change in obligation period.

## Annex A: RTFO statistics reporting timescales and contents

Reports are published quarterly. Six reports are published for each annual obligation period as RTFCs can be issued up to seven months following the close of an obligation period. Each report will replace the previous report for that obligation period with the latest data.

The last report for the obligation period (number six) will report on the carbon and sustainability performance of individual suppliers. These reports are available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/series/biofuels-statistics>

Table 1 – content of RTFO reports

Table	Description	Report					
		One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
RTFO 01	Volume of fuel supplied	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RTFO 02	Volume of fuel to which RTFCs issued and number of RTFCs issued	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RTFO 03	RTFC balances by obligation period	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RTFO 04	RTFC trades to date by company type	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RTFO 05	RTFO wide carbon and sustainability data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RTFO 06	RTFO wide voluntary scheme data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RTFO 07	Performance against obligation by supplier	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
RTFO 08a	Feedstock by supplier as a percentage of their supply	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
RTFO 08b	Country of origin by supplier as a percentage of their supply	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
RTFO 09	Percentage of renewable fuel that was sustainable by supplier	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
RTFO 10	Carbon and sustainability data by supplier	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
RTFO 11	RTFO wide fuel supply by volume and energy	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
RTFO 12	Civil penalties and other non-compliance	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
RTFO 13	Performance against GHG reporting Requirements	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

Table 2 – Publication dates and contents of each report

		Publication date									
		06-Nov-14	05-Feb-15	07-May-15	06-Aug-15	05-Nov-15	04-Feb-16	05-May-16	04-Aug-16	03-Nov-16	02-Feb-17
Obligation period 7 2014/15	Quarter 1	Report 1	Report 2	Report 3	Report 4	Report 5					
	Quarter 2		Report 2	Report 3	Report 4	Report 5					
	Quarter 3			Report 3	Report 4	Report 5					
	Quarter 4				Report 4	Report 5					
Obligation period 8 2015/16	Quarter 1					Report 1	Report 2	Report 3	Report 4	Report 5	
	Quarter 2						Report 2	Report 3	Report 4	Report 5	
	Quarter 3							Report 3	Report 4	Report 5	
	Quarter 4							Report 4	Report 4	Report 5	
Obligation period 9 2016/17	Quarter 1									Report 1	Report 2
	Quarter 2										Report 2
	Quarter 3										
	Quarter 4										