

IEA Bioenergy

WEBINAR SERIES

Biobased chemicals: a 2020 status update

March 10, 2020

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Central European Time
11:00 am - 12:00 am North American Eastern Daylight Time
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Greenwich Mean Time



Moderator
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Presentation Summary

Over the last decade the deployment of renewable biochemicals has been disappointing. While the production of ethanol has grown rapidly, the deployment of other renewable molecules has not shown the same rate of production growth. The webinar will give an overview of the current status of bio-based chemicals. It is concluded that without support from governments, it is simply too easy to continue to use plentiful and cheap non-renewable sources of carbon to produce biochemicals. Current government settings are not sufficient to reach the Sustainable Development Scenario. Technology continues to improve and there are a multitude of exciting opportunities to deploy equivalent or superior products into the future in the field of biochemicals. However, renewable substrates are more expensive to procure and process than their fossil counterparts. To deploy, biochemicals will require a combination of mandates, carbon pricing and a reduction in fossil fuel subsidies if the market is to drive meaningful deployment over the next decades.

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