

Is Ethanol the alternative fuel of the future?

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04/29/04

Many consumers want to see ethanol being blended with their fuel because prices are cheaper due to subsidized taxes. Some students in class say that the prices on ethanol with their fuel are more expensive in certain locations. In either case, I believe that more consumers will pick cheaper prices over cleaner burning fuels, because the effects aren't directly being seen yet.

Some consumers worry about fuel efficiency and the stress put on their vehicles because of the higher temperature at which ethanol burns. Safe standards were set on how much ethanol is allowed to be mixed without damaging a vehicle, but some people don't trust those standards.

Consumers like to have more jobs available. In some areas like the northern mid-west United States, there are more jobs created for farm communities, but others would argue that the quantity of jobs created are quite small compared to boosting jobs in a metropolitan area. Ethanol suppliers also tend to be dominated by larger facilities, so not every farmer can just start producing ethanol.

Environmentalists say that using ethanol in the winter months is more efficient and less pollutant than the summer months, but it is unclear as to what the comparison of ethanol to fuel is in both the summer and winter months, because it had also been discussed later that large cities use ethanol to lower their pollution level.

Another benefit to the environment would be fuel supply. When we use ethanol, we switch from the production of limited resources to resources that we can create.

The government's role in this country is to make life in America better; therefore, they are pressured to increase fuel efficiency standards and increase jobs. Ethanol is one way that these standards can be met. There is also pressure to lower taxes, but the government feels that consumers will see their tax cut indirectly and over the long-run if they don't see it right away.

Another issue for the government is homeland security, because with the use of ethanol, we increase our supply of fuel without importing it from other countries.

Even if taxes increased, I personally would like to see ethanol used. People need to be more conscientious about their spending, more respectful of our available resources, and more concerned about our pollution.