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EBB Press Release

Recent study confirms that advanced biodiesel from animal waste saves beyond 85% of greenhouse gas emissions

A recent study performed by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IFEU), in Heidelberg confirmed that advanced biodiesel produced from animal fats is highly sustainable and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 85% compared to fossil diesel. This supports many sectors' requests to add biodiesel from animal waste and residues to the list of advanced biofuels.

The recent IFEU study examined the way in which the greenhouse gases' (GHG) emissions from the processing of animal by-products should be calculated and confirmed the validity of the boundaries of precedent Life Cycle Assessment (LCAs) studies. Animal fats used for biodiesel production have a nature of waste and their direct savings when compared to fossil diesel amount to at least 85% GHG emissions. This does not include yet the indirect savings created by the fact that animal fats – and in particular those of cat.1 – are removed from the environment, which should still be added to the calculation improving the results even further.

The IFEU's study underlined that in 2013 almost 100% of the animal fats and nearly 90% of the meat and bone meal (MBM) were used for energy purposes. *"Europe has already the producers, the infrastructures and the raw materials to fight climate change in the transport sector. This study backs what EBB claimed more than once: biodiesel made from used cooking oil and animal waste is an advanced biofuel and has to be treated as such. It is an incredible discrimination to see that in recent ILUC negotiations such advanced biodiesel risks to be excluded from the list of advanced biofuels"* said Raffaello Garofalo, EBB Secretary General.

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European Biodiesel Board (EBB) is a non-profit organisation established in January 1997. Today, EBB gathers nearly 80 members across 21 Member-States, which represents 75% of the European output. Biodiesel is the main European solution to reduce emissions from transport and dependence on imported oil. EBB aims to promote the use of biodiesel in the European Union and is committed to fulfil International standards for sustainability in GHG emissions and sustainable feedstock. EBB is constantly working towards the development of improved and greener technologies.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IFEU) is a German reference centre of excellence in environmental research. Its expertise covers areas like environmental implications of transport, energy supply and renewable energy sources, life cycle assessment, air pollution control and environmental management. IFEU is assisting reputable environmental and industrial businesses worldwide since many decades.
The recent IFEU "*Analysis of allocation approaches of animal by-product treatment in the context of life cycle assessments"* study mentioned above confirms the truthfulness of the calculation methods used, adding that all emissions related to treatment in conformity with public health conditions in sterilised preliminary products should not be counted towards the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions developed during the production of the associated biofuels.

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