

FO Lights

Full impact of oil industry emissions not counted

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The European Union is not taking full account of the environmental impact of oil-based road transport fuels, which could undermine the bloc's renewable energy goals, European biodiesel producers said on Thursday.

The EU uses greenhouse gas emissions from fossil-based road fuels as a basis for calculating the climate benefits of crop-based biofuels.

But biodiesel producers argue the EU's reference values for emissions from diesel and petrol are set too low. That's because they fail to take account of the rising use of unconventional fossil fuels such as Canadian tar sands and extra heavy oil.

"Fossil fuels and renewable fuels would therefore not be treated on an equal footing," the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) said in a statement.

"The most polluting sources of crude oil would be artificially incentivized, while biofuels would be penalized and limited in their use."

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