

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Japan Invites Public Comments on Fuel Ethanol Policy

Report Categories:

Biofuels

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Report Highlights:

On December 29, 2017, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) invited public comments on changes to its fuel ethanol policy. The changes include a set value for U.S. corn-based ethanol green-house gas (GHG) emissions which would allow its import for use in the production of bio-ETBE. METI also proposed revised GHG emission values for Brazilian sugarcane ethanol and gasoline, and will increase the GHG reduction target from 50 to 55 percent of the emissions of gasoline. Public comments on METI's proposals are due on January 18, 2018.

General Information:

On December 29, 2017, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) invited public comments on proposed changes to its biofuels policy. The public comment period closes on January 18, 2018.

Comments can be submitted (in Japanese) to METI via the following website (Japanese language only). <http://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Public?CLASSNAME=PCMMSTDETAIL&id=620217017&Mode=0>

METI is inviting comments on following changes to Japan's biofuels policy:

- The default GHG emission value of U.S. corn-based ethanol will be set at 43.15.
- U.S. corn-based ethanol will be allowed for use in bio-ETBE, when combined with Brazilian sugar cane ethanol, from April 2018.
- The default GHG emission value of Brazilian sugarcane-based ethanol will be increased from 32.7 to 33.61.
- The default GHG emission value of gasoline will be revised from 81.7 to 84.11.
- Japan will raise the reduction target compared gasoline GHG emissions from the current 50 percent to 55 percent.
- Japan will maintain its 500 million liter (crude oil equivalent) mandate until 2022.

For more information, see GAIN [JA7142](#).

Following the revised GHG emission values of gasoline, Brazilian ethanol, and U.S. ethanol, the maximum share of U.S. ethanol by volume allowed in the Japanese market will be 53.73 percent, based on the following calculation.

GHG emission value of	
- Gasoline:	84.11 gCO ₂ eq/MJ
- Brazilian ethanol:	33.61 gCO ₂ eq/MJ
-U.S. ethanol:	43.15 gCO ₂ eq/MJ
GHG emission reduction level:	55%

$$\left(\frac{43.15 \times \text{Volume of U.S. ethanol}}{\text{Total volume of ethanol}} + \frac{33.61 \times \text{Volume of Brazilian ethanol}}{\text{Total volume of ethanol}} \right) \times 1/0.45 < 84.11$$