

LACK OF POLITICAL WILL ON CAR EMISSIONS WILL RESULT IN A LOST DECADE OF RISING CO2

Replacing the national fleet is a ‘gargantuan’ task that ‘will take many decades’

Banning the sale of fossil fuel cars from 2030 is commendable, but doing nothing to reduce transport emissions until 2030 will result in a lost decade in tackling rising CO2 car emissions.

Since 2007 petrol for sale in Ireland includes 5% ethanol and is known as E5. Ethanol is a biofuel derived from crops such as corn, beet and cane. It improves performance and reduces CO2 emissions by over 70%.

Moving to E10 petrol (10% ethanol content) would reduce emissions by 150,000 tonnes of CO2 annually compared to petrol alone. That is the same CO2 savings as replacing 100,000 petrol powered cars with Electric Vehicles (EVs), which would cost €1billion in grants and lost tax. E10 is used in over half a billion vehicles and in over 5 countries across Europe, the USA, Canada and Brazil.

Switching to E10 could happen overnight at no cost to the exchequer by means of a simple Ministerial Order. It would also reduce carbon tax at the fuel pump and present new income opportunities for tillage farmers.

Commenting on the role of biofuels in Irish transport Brendan Halligan, President of the Institute of International and European Affairs has said:

“The task of replacing a national transport fleet based on diesel and petrol is a gargantuan one and will take many decades to complete. Without the increased use of E10 there is no quick fix to hand, short of banning cars and trucks from the roads for defined periods. Put in these terms, the case for E10 is utterly compelling and the mystery is why it has not been accepted and acted upon with the urgency the situation demands.”

Commenting, James Cogan, Ethanol Europe said:

“We have seen plenty of political rhetoric on reducing transport emissions, but very little action. Ireland cannot afford a lost decade of inaction until the planned ban on the sale of fossil-fuelled vehicles comes into effect in 2030. If there is the political will to do so fossil fuel can be made cleaner overnight by switching to E10.”

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Ethanol Europe: is a member of the ClonBio Group which operates the world class Pannonia Bio ethanol and animal feed biorefinery in Hungary. Ethanol Europe engages in advocacy with policy makers at national and international level. The advocacy objective is to encourage the development of a constructive regulatory environment and to attract new investment to the bioeconomy.