



Why become an E85 (85% ethanol / 15% gasoline) fuel provider?

- The US currently has over 5 million E85 capable flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs), which can operate on either gasoline or ethanol blends up to 85%. All major US auto makers sell FFVs at no additional cost to the purchaser and have announced plans to significantly expand production.
- Ethanol is easily blended with gasoline and often can be used in existing storage and dispensing equipment.
- Tests have shown that E85 reduces carbon monoxide as well as harmful hydrocarbon and benzene emissions. On a life cycle basis E85 use also reduces carbon dioxide levels (a primary greenhouse gas).
- Demand for renewable based fuels such as ethanol is increasing. Consumers interested in energy independence and the environment want cleaner burning fuels that will help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and support agricultural interests.

What are the differences between gasoline and ethanol fuels?

Because E85 contains 15% gasoline, it retains similar color and odor to that of gasoline. As a fuel, ethanol is treated very similarly to gasoline and falls under the same handling and storage requirements; however, there are certain characteristics that differ from gasoline:

- Below 35°F, E85 vapor is more flammable than gasoline, but otherwise is actually less flammable,
- Ethanol is less toxic than gasoline with no carcinogenetic compounds,
- E85 contains 27% less energy per gallon, but has a higher octane number (ranging from 100 – 110 compared with 87 for gasoline) and increases power 3-5%,
- Ethanol readily absorbs water which requires certain precautions to ensure the fuel quality is not compromised with moisture and makes it incompatible with certain materials.