Chapter 5: Biomass and Biofuels

For charts and graphs related to biomass and biofuels, please refer to the *Kansas Energy Chart Book*, Chapter 5 (http://kec.kansas.gov/chart_book/).

Overview

Biomass is defined as organic matter derived from plant and animal source. Biofuels are transportation fuels made from biomass and include ethanol, methanol, biodiesel, biocrude, and methane¹. Ethanol and biodiesel are the most commonly produced and utilized biofuels, with production in the U.S. on the rise. From 2004 to 2006, annual ethanol production increased from 3.4 billion gallons to about 4.9 billion gallons, and annual biodiesel production rose from 28 million gallons to roughly 287 million gallons. Taken together, these two biofuels accounted for about 3 percent of gasoline and diesel motor fuel used on a volumetric basis.²

¹ U.S. Dept. of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 2007, Biomass Program, Technologies, Biomass FAQs: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/biomass_basics_faqs.html (accessed December 12, 2007).

² U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), 2007, Biofuels: DOE Lacks a Strategic Approach to Coordinate Increasing Production with Infrastructure Development and Vehicle Needs (GAO-07-713), p. 5.