

News story: Government launches new campaign to inform drivers about greener fuels

- filling stations are to clearly identify biofuel content of road fuel to increase awareness among drivers
- uniform EU-wide labels will also prevent drivers from filling up with the wrong fuel abroad
- biofuels supplied in the UK reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 70% compared to fossil fuels, helping combat climate change

Drivers are being urged to think more carefully about the environmental impacts of their journeys through a new [government campaign](#) launching today (6 June 2019).

From today, filling stations across the UK will start rolling out new labels, which will help educate drivers on the benefits of biofuels.

Petrol, which contains up to 5% renewable ethanol, will be labelled 'E5', while diesel, which contains up to 7% biodiesel, will be labelled as 'B7'.

This is the latest step in the government's drive to get consumers thinking more actively about the environmental impact of their transport choices, and follows a commitment to [end the sale of diesel and petrol cars by 2040, set out in the Road to Zero strategy](#).

Michael Ellis, Transport Minister, said:

Drivers should be aware of the environmental impact of their travel choices, and seeing this when they are buying fuel can help remind them why decarbonising transport is so important.

Biofuels are a key way of achieving the emissions reductions the UK needs, and their use reduced CO₂ emissions by 2.7 million tonnes last year alone – the equivalent of taking around 1.2 million cars off the road.

Our new campaign will help drivers understand the role of biofuels, while also choosing the right fuel for their vehicle at home and abroad.

Biofuels can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% compared to fossil fuels, and the campaign is set to highlight the crucial role that they will play during the transition to electric vehicles. Last year, 1.6 billion litres of renewable transport fuels were supplied in the UK.

Erik Rietkirk, CEO of Argent Energy, said:

These labels are crucial for informing the public about what the UK is doing to decarbonise transport.

Making the most of the huge environmental benefits of sustainable biofuels makes complete sense, and can help reduce emissions during the transition to a low carbon future.

Biofuels are made from a range of materials, including oil, fats, and grease waste, which are often recovered from sewage systems and water treatment works.

As even greener fuels, such as E10 – a petrol grade with up to 10% renewable ethanol – come onto the market, the labels are set to have an increasingly important role to play in raising consumer awareness of alternatives to traditional fuel.

The campaign follows a government push to help people make more conscious transport choices and understand how these contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, such as encouraging the use of cleaner vehicles.

These include a commitment to end the sale of new conventional diesel and petrol cars and vans by 2040, investment in hybrid trains, the doubling of investment in cycling and walking since 2010, along with the £2.5 billion [Transforming Cities Fund](#) which will develop innovative public transport schemes in some of England's biggest cities.

[News story: Advances in aviation security set to go on trial across the UK](#)

Innovative prototypes that are on course to revolutionise aviation security will be given additional support to accelerate their development.

[News story: Advances in aviation security set to go on trial across the](#)

Government funding worth up to £1 million is being announced today (Wed 5 June 2019) to enable pioneering aviation security solutions to be tested and trialled in a variety of environments which could include sports venues, shopping centres, museums and airports.

The Future Aviation Security Solutions (FASS) programme is a joint initiative between the Department for Transport (DfT) and Home Office. It will award the funding to suppliers through the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) to cover the costs of testing and trialling their prototypes.

The funding is part of a government commitment to further strengthen aviation security and support the development of solutions that could lead to increased security effectiveness, shorter queues and faster more efficient screening at airports.

It will allow those with innovative ideas capable of enhancing aviation security to bid for the opportunity to potentially trial their concept in a public or live airport environment, or put it through further testing in a laboratory to determine its detection capability.

Innovators can often struggle to access the materials and facilities that can help them gather the real-world data needed to take their pioneering ideas forward. The FASS programme understands that testing and trialling are crucial parts of the development process and this competition will support innovators to gain access to the materials and facilities they need.

FASS is designed to encourage, fund and support the development of innovative technology to deliver a step change in aviation security. Its aim is to deliver solutions to aviation security challenges that can be deployed at checkpoints.

[Find out more about this funding opportunity.](#)

Press release: Bottles of success for water filter business

Bedfordshire-based Water-to-Go secures distributors in Australia and New Zealand

Press release: Bottles of success for water filter business

It's World Environment Day and as countries around the world look for ways to tackle some of our biggest environmental issues, one company is leading the way in clean drinking water. Water-to-Go, a Bedfordshire-based filtered water bottle manufacturer has secured new distributors in New Zealand and Australia for its water filtration bottles.

Founder Dave Shanks created new nano technology filters, after advancing technology that was originally developed for NASA, which can filter out in excess of 99.9% of microbiological contaminants. The filter sits beneath the drinking spout of the reusable, recyclable BPA free bottles. He then saw the opportunity to export the technology globally, starting with Sweden and France.

The company now exports to 55 countries, including Mexico and India. The business plans to launch in the USA this year and already has had all materials approved by the FDA. In 2018, the company launched in China, where the demand is high and the distributor in Shanghai, HH (Shanghai) Environment Technology Co., Ltd., continues to grow the business across China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

This came about with help from an International Trade Adviser from the Department for International Trade (DIT) who was able to make in-market introductions to help with a launch event.

The business formed relationships with partners in China, which is making a big push for environmental change, particularly as it hosts the Beijing Expo 2019 where DIT is leading the UK's participation. The UK is showcasing its capabilities in the green technology space, focusing on climate management and building a more sustainable future at the expo.

Exporting is a significant part of the company's success and was considered from the very beginning when Shanks realised there was an opportunity to replace single-use plastic water bottles around the world, and find a way to ensure clean quality water.

Looking to the future, the business is searching out partners in sub-Saharan Africa where the need and demand for technology like this is high.

Dave Shanks, director and founder of Water-to-Go said:

If you can talk to distributors regularly, build the relationships in the same way as you would a UK client, and think of them as an extension of your salesforce, then you will find success.

Our trade adviser has been invaluable and stays in constant contact with us, offering support and expertise when we are looking at new

markets. When we first went to China, DIT put us in contact with CBBC for our launch event, and this has helped our business grow in market.

We'll continue to work with regions where the need and demand is highest and will work closely with our International Trade Advisor to reach into those new markets.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

DIT helps businesses export, drives inward and outward investment, negotiates market access and trade deals, and champions free trade.

We are an international economic department, responsible for:

- supporting and encouraging UK businesses to drive sustainable international growth
- ensuring the UK remains a leading destination for international investment and maintains its number one position for international investment stock in Europe
- opening markets, building a trade framework with new and existing partners which is free and fair
- using trade and investment to underpin the government's agenda for a Global Britain and its ambitions for prosperity, stability and security worldwide.

Latest statistics from the ONS show UK firms sold more overseas in the 2018/19 financial year, £639.9 billion, than at any time since records began. The UK has now achieved 36 consecutive months of export growth on an annual rolling basis.

Separate OECD data shows UK exports grew faster than Germany, France and Italy between 2016 and 2018. Export Strategy

- The Export Strategy sets out how the government will support businesses of all sizes to make the most of the opportunities presented by markets around the world.
- A government-led collaboration with business, developed after extensive engagement with a range of UK firms – the Strategy sets a new ambition from government to increase exports as a proportion of UK GDP to 35%.

- It presents a streamlined and targeted offer for businesses of all sizes, set to raise productivity, boost wages and protect employment across the UK.
- This is just the start – in the months ahead DIT will lead work across government to assess what more we can do to support UK business to achieve a step change in their exporting performance.