

**Alcohol:** The family name of a group of organic chemical compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. The series of molecules vary in chain length and are composed of a **hydrocarbon** plus a hydroxyl group;  $\text{CH}_3\text{-(CH}_2\text{)}_n\text{-OH}$  (e.g., **methanol**, **ethanol**, and tertiary butyl alcohol). See **Fuel ethanol**.

**Alternative fuel:** Alternative fuels, for transportation applications, include the following: **methanol**; denatured **ethanol**, and other **alcohols**; fuel mixtures containing 85 percent or more by volume of methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols with **motor gasoline** or other fuels; **natural gas**; **liquefied petroleum gas (propane)**; **hydrogen**; **coal-derived liquid fuels**; fuels (other than alcohol) derived from biological materials (**biofuels** such as soy **diesel fuel**); **electricity** (including electricity from **solar energy**); and "... any other fuel the Secretary determines, by rule, is substantially not **petroleum** and would yield substantial energy security benefits and substantial environmental benefits." The term "alternative fuel" does not include alcohol or other blended portions of primarily petroleum-based fuels used as **oxygenates** or extenders, i.e., **MTBE**, **ETBE**, other ethers, and the 10-percent ethanol portion of **gasohol**.

**Alternative-fuel vehicle (AFV):** A vehicle designed to operate on an **alternative fuel** (e.g., compressed **natural gas**, **methane** blend, or **electricity**). The vehicle could be either a dedicated vehicle designed to operate exclusively on alternative fuel or a nondedicated vehicle designed to operate on alternative fuel and/or a traditional fuel.

**Anthracite:** The highest rank of **coal**; used primarily for residential and commercial space heating. It is a hard, brittle, and black lustrous coal, often referred to as hard coal, containing a high percentage of fixed carbon and a low percentage of volatile matter. The moisture content of fresh-mined anthracite generally is less than 15 percent. The heat content of anthracite ranges from 22 to 28 million **Btu** per **short ton** on a moist, mineral-matter-free basis. The heat content of anthracite coal consumed in the United States averages 25 million Btu per short ton, on the as-received basis (i.e., containing both inherent moisture and mineral matter). **Note:** Since the 1980's, anthracite refuse or mine waste has been used for steam-electric power generation. This fuel typically has a heat content of 15 million Btu per ton or less.

**Anthropogenic:** Made or generated by a human or caused by human activity. The term is used in the context of global **climate change** to refer to gaseous emissions that are the result of human activities, as well as other potentially climate-altering activities, such as deforestation.

**Asphalt:** A dark brown-to-black cement-like material obtained by **petroleum** processing and containing bitumens as the predominant component; used primarily for road construction. It includes crude asphalt as well as the following finished products: cements, fluxes, the asphalt content of emulsions (exclusive of water), and petroleum distillates blended with asphalt to make cutback asphalts. **Note:** The conversion factor for asphalt is 5.5 barrels per short ton.

**ASTM:** The American Society for Testing and Materials.

**Aviation gasoline blending components:** **Naphthas** that will be used for blending or compounding into finished aviation gasoline (e.g., straight run gasoline, alkylate, reformate, benzene, toluene, and xylene). Excludes **oxygenates (alcohols, ethers)**, **butane**, and **natural gasoline**. Oxygenates are reported as **other hydrocarbons, hydrogen**, and oxygenates. See **Aviation gasoline, finished**.

**Aviation gasoline, finished:** A complex mixture of relatively volatile hydrocarbons with or without small quantities of additives, blended to form a fuel suitable for use in aviation reciprocating engines. Fuel specifications are provided in ASTM Specification D 910 and Military Specification MIL-G-5572. **Note:** Data on blending components are not counted in data on finished aviation gasoline.

**Barrel (petroleum):** A unit of volume equal to 42 U.S. Gallons.

**Base gas:** The quantity of **natural gas** needed to maintain adequate reservoir pressures and deliverability rates throughout the withdrawal season. Base gas usually is not withdrawn and remains in the reservoir. All natural gas native to a depleted reservoir is included in the base gas volume.

**Biodiesel:** A fuel typically made from soybean, canola, or other vegetable oils; animal fats; and recycled grease. It can serve as a substitute for **petroleum-derived diesel fuel** or **distillate fuel oil**. For U.S. Energy Information Administration