

Biodiesel: Renewable fuel consisting of mono alkyl esters (long chain fatty acids) that are produced through the conversion of animal fats, vegetable oils, and recycled grease feedstocks (transesterification). Biodiesel is typically blended with **petroleum-based diesel fuel** in concentrations of 2% to 20% biodiesel, or B2 to B20.

Biofuels: Liquid fuels and blending components produced from **biomass** (plant) feedstocks, used primarily for transportation. See **Biodiesel**, **Fuel ethanol**, **Other biofuels**, and **Renewable diesel fuel**.

Biogas: A mixture of methane and other gases produced by decomposing matter in an oxygen-free (anaerobic) environment with the assistance of microbes. Biogas is typically produced at landfills and anaerobic digesters.

Biogenic: Produced by biological processes of living organisms. **Note:** EIA uses the term “biogenic” to refer only to organic nonfossil material of biological origin.

Biomass: Organic nonfossil material of biological origin constituting a renewable energy source. See **Biodiesel**, **Biofuels**, **Biomass waste**, **Densified biomass**, **Fuel ethanol**, **Other biofuels**, **Renewable diesel fuel**, and **Wood and wood-derived fuels**.

Biomass-based diesel fuel: Biodiesel and other renewable **diesel fuel** or diesel fuel blending components derived from **biomass**, but excluding renewable diesel fuel coprocessed with petroleum feedstocks. See **Biodiesel** and **Renewable diesel fuel**.

Biomass waste: Organic non-fossil material of biological origin that is a byproduct or a discarded product. “Biomass waste” includes municipal solid waste from **biogenic** sources, landfill gas, sludge waste, agricultural crop byproducts, straw, and other **biomass** solids, liquids, and gases; but excludes **wood and wood-derived fuels** (including **black liquor**), **biofuels** feedstock, **biodiesel**, **fuel ethanol**, **other biofuels**, and **renewable diesel fuel**. **Note:** EIA “biomass waste” data also include energy crops grown specifically for energy production, which would not normally constitute waste.

Bituminous coal: A dense **coal**, usually black, sometimes dark brown, often with well-defined bands of bright and dull material, used primarily as fuel in steam-electric power generation, with substantial quantities also used for heat and power applications in manufacturing and to make **coke**. Bituminous coal is the most abundant coal in active U.S. mining regions. Its moisture content usually is less than 20 percent. The heat content of bituminous coal ranges from 21 to 30 million **Btu** per **short ton** on a moist, mineral-matter-free basis. The heat content of bituminous coal consumed in the United States averages 24 million Btu per short ton, on the as-received basis (i.e., containing both inherent moisture and mineral matter).

Black liquor: A byproduct of the paper production process, alkaline spent liquor that can be used as a source of energy. Alkaline spent liquor is removed from the digesters in the process of chemically pulping wood. After evaporation, the residual “black” liquor is burned as a fuel in a recovery furnace that permits the recovery of certain basic chemicals.

British thermal unit (Btu): The quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 pound of liquid water by 1 degree Fahrenheit at the temperature at which water has its greatest density (approximately 39 degrees Fahrenheit). See **Heat content**.

Btu: See **British thermal unit**.

Btu conversion factor: A factor for converting **energy** data between one unit of measurement and **British thermal units (Btu)**. Btu conversion factors are generally used to convert energy data from physical units of measure (such as **barrels**, **cubic feet**, or **short tons**) into the energy-equivalent measure of Btu. (See <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/#appendices> for further information on Btu conversion factors.)

Butane (C₄H₁₀): A straight-chain or branch-chain **hydrocarbon** extracted from **natural gas** or **refinery gas** streams, which is gaseous at standard temperature and pressure. It includes **isobutane** and **normal butane** and is designated in ASTM Specification D1835 and Gas Processors Association specifications for commercial butane.

Butylene (C₄H₈): An olefinic **hydrocarbon** recovered from refinery or petrochemical processes, which is gaseous at standard temperature and pressure. Butylene is used in the production of gasoline and various petrochemical products. See **Olefinic hydrocarbons (olefins)**.