Over the past decade the ethanol industry has grown significantly. Most Americans have not had the opportunity to learn all the ways ethanol is having a positive impact on the U.S. economy. It’s time to change that.

The ethanol industry is improving the economic vitality of rural communities, contributing to local industry, creating jobs, providing a renewable fuel source and reducing the environmental impact of traditional fuels. In many ways, ethanol is fueling our future today. Here’s how:

**EMISSIONS**
Ethanol outperforms gasoline as a way of reducing emissions. According to energy experts, global ethanol production and use is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 110 million metric tons per year. That’s equivalent to taking more than 20 million vehicles off of the road.

**ENVIRONMENT**
In addition to reducing emissions, ethanol blends offer drivers a renewable fuel source. American farmers grow a new corn crop every year, providing a fresh ethanol supply. Not so with petroleum. It takes millions of years for the earth to turn plant and animal matter into oil. When we run out of oil, there’s no renewing it.

**FOOD & FUEL**
U.S. farmers grow more than enough corn for all uses, so using ethanol for fuel production does not negatively affect supply. In fact, an ethanol co-product is used to feed livestock. Every year, a supply of corn is held over to be used the following year, ensuring a stable supply. Plus, U.S. ethanol production uses just 3% of the global grain supply.

**HERE’S A PLUS:**
2.3:1. That’s the ratio of the amount of energy ethanol provides compared to the amount required to make it. More than double the output for every unit of input.

**HERE’S A PLUS:**
Using ethanol to boost octane in gasoline saved U.S. consumers nearly $8 billion in 2013.

$8 Billion
**ECONOMICS**

Ethanol supports the economy by creating jobs and keeping money in the U.S. that would otherwise go overseas. The ethanol industry provides 12,000 jobs directly, but the impact reaches further, with 383,260 jobs supported as a result of U.S. ethanol production.

Ethanol also decreases U.S. dependence on foreign oil. The U.S. imports 45% of its petroleum needs today, a significant decrease since the rise of the ethanol industry. In fact, the use of domestically produced ethanol in 2012 resulted in the U.S. needing to import 870,000 fewer barrels of foreign oil every day – enough to fuel 23.5 million cars.

**CONSUMERS**

In addition to all the pluses we’ve already shared, ethanol offers real positives for consumers. From a health perspective, it’s non-toxic, and is supported by the American Lung Association in its Policy Book (e85 for FFVs). Ethanol is also a lower-cost oxygenate than alternatives, so it saves consumers money at the pump – nearly a dollar per gallon.

**HERE’S A PLUS:**
Higher-octane fuel that contains ethanol can make engines cleaner, and with more power and efficiency, while also reducing the amount of CO₂ they produce.

**HERE’S A PLUS:**
The average ethanol plant generates $9 million worth of economic activity every year. In 2012, ethanol generated $13.7 billion in economic activity in rural America.
Founded in 1957, the National Corn Growers Association represents more than 42,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide and the interests of more than 300,000 growers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its 48 affiliated state associations and checkoff organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for their members and their industry.