

Book Review

Gasohol for Energy Production,

by Nicholas P. Cheremisinoff, Ann Arbor Science Publishers Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48106, 1979, 140 pp., price £8.25/\$16.45. (Distributed in Europe and Africa by John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Chichester, Gt. Britain.)

This is one of the more recent publications in the Ann Arbor Energy Technology series and is concerned with the use of alcohols as fuels, particularly for cars. Gasohol is, in fact, an automotive fuel consisting of a blend of 10% ethyl alcohol with 90% unleaded gasoline.

Starting with the use of biomass as the feedstock for alcohol production, the book deals briefly with the chemistry of the alcohols, the synthesis of methanol and ethanol, experience with the use of alcohols and blends of alcohol with gasoline as motor fuels, the legal and taxation problems arising in the U.S. with the use of ethanol, and the cost and problems of introducing nationally an alcohol/gasoline car fuel. Problems arising in the use of alcohols are summarised and a final chapter of 23 pages deals with biomass availability and production in the U.S. and is of limited interest to persons in other countries.

It is not a profound book nor a critical one, but it is well referenced and includes a bibliography of 13 pages. It can be recommended as a useful, factual introduction to a study of the production of alcohols, their use as automotive fuels, and the problems and economics of their use.

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