

## BIOFUELS AND WATER

**Biofuels, such as corn ethanol and soy biodiesel, have serious impacts on water.** Not only is water required to grow biofuels, but growth and production of biofuels such as palm oil biodiesel also often increases pollution, making water unusable for other purposes.

Biofuels produced in developing countries are typically exported to developed countries. This means that the water used to grow those biofuels is exported as well, instead of being available to communities for food and water security.

### Did you know?

- Every gallon of sugarcane ethanol from El Salvador imported by the U.S. has a water footprint of 3,744 gallons
- 792 billion gallons of water are used in developing countries every year to produce biofuels for the U.S. market
- 70% of water withdrawals globally are for agriculture

**Water is too valuable to risk on biofuels –  
Reform the Renewable Fuel Standard**



Guatemalan women were violently evicted from their ancestral land for a sugarcane plantation. Guatemala produces over 44% of Central America's sugarcane ethanol, but each gallon of biofuel needs 1,637 gallons of water.

Food security, human health, the environment and development, all depend on access to clean water. But water is increasingly scarce.

Population growth means higher demand for sanitation, drinking water and food production.

Increasingly, climate change is straining water systems. Droughts are more common in some areas, and we are seeing more flooding in others. We must learn from recent disasters and use water resources wisely.

How we use water matters. Producing biofuels means that less water will be available for growing food, drinking water, and sanitation. It also puts the environment, including water sources, at risk from pollution.

## **REFORM THE RFS**

ActionAid is a global movement of 25 million people in 45 countries working together to further human rights for all and defeat poverty