

Corn syrup is either sprayed on the DGS following fermentation or sold as a stand-alone product. If corn oil is extracted, then it is added to the DGS following fermentation or sold as an animal feed supplement or a biodiesel feedstock. The GREET model uses the displacement method to calculate energy and emission credits based on co-product displacement ratios.

Table 1. Principal Options for GHG Reductions at Corn Ethanol Plants

Scenario	kg CO ₂ /MMBtu	Description	Assumption/ Calculation Basis ^b
Baseline	55.5	U.S. Average dry mill ethanol.	22,480 Btu/gal, 0.61 kWh/gal, 2.86 gal/Btu
CI Reduction^a		Low CI Production Technologies	
CCS	-33.8	Store CO ₂ underground	Capture 90% of fermentation CO ₂
Renewable Power	-3.8	REC for electricity as well as on-site wind or solar power	0 g CO ₂ e/kWh, per GREET
Biomass Heat and Power	-20 to -25	Power and heat generated at corn ethanol plant.	Eliminates natural gas and electric power emissions. Calculate GHG emissions from biomass use in GREET.
RNG	-21	40% of natural gas from RNG	- 100 g CO ₂ /MJ dairy, swine, or steer manure. Calculate GHG emissions based on RNG use and CI of RNG.
Farming GHG Reductions			
Green NH ₃	-6.1	Green Ammonia for Fertilizer	FD-CIC Green Ammonia
Low CI NH ₃	-2 to -5	Ammonia with CO ₂ capture	Calculate GHG emissions based on ammonia production process.
No Till	-3.4 to -6.5	Switch Reduced to No Till farming	FD-CIC Reduced Till to No Till depending upon region.
Fertilizer	-2.4	Nitrogen efficiency	FD-CIC Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer
	-5.2	Precision application	FD-CIC (4R) Right time, place, form, rate
	-1 to -3	Bio-based fertilizer	Calculate based on farming inputs
Manure Application	-5.5 to -28	Mix of dairy, swine, cattle, poultry manure	FD-CIC Manure Application
Cover Crop	-20.4 to -39.1	Grow winter cover crop	FD-CIC Cover Crop

^a Reductions apply to baseline for typical dry mill ethanol plant; where multiple technologies or practices apply, reductions may be added together to calculate the fuel's emission rate.

^b GHG reductions are available from standard values in the FD-CIC or from additional calculations as indicated.

Corn Ethanol GHG Emissions

Typical GHG emissions for a dry mill corn ethanol plant are available in the GREET model. The default values represent a mix of plant operating parameters which vary largely with the amount of DGS drying that occur at each plant.

Ethanol Plant Reductions

Several emission reduction options are available to ethanol plants and are discussed below.