

Colorado Alternative Energy

[2009 Renewable Energy Predictions](#)

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An important trend that we'll see continuing in 2009 is a more sophisticated understanding - from the industry, policymakers and from the general public - of the total impact of various renewable energy products. This will be especially true in the biofuels industry, where it's becoming increasingly apparent to these audiences that not all biofuels are created equal.

We're starting to see a growing appreciation for not simply the economic profile of a fuel (which is only one sliver of the picture), but also a more holistic view: What consequences does the fuel have on water, air, or climate? What is its impact on food production and nutrient cycles? What are its total lifecycle emissions?

Many companies (including Rocky Mountain Sustainable Enterprises through its bioXchange™ bio-refineries) are focusing intently on optimizing the energy and nutrient value of resource streams. Moving forward, it will be critical not only that we curtail the exhaustive extraction of natural resources like fossil fuels. We also don't want to liquidate our planet's biomass natural capital.

Enhancing the ecological awareness of these sorts of impacts will be crucial in 2009 and beyond, and it's already happening. As consumer awareness of renewable energy increases, we're realizing how interrelated our various resource streams really are. Both the general public and the policy community will continue to develop a deeper appreciation of the impacts of various energy sources, not just on the economy, but also on the ecosystem.