

# Distillery <sup>modern</sup> Age



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## World's First Car Fueled by Whisky Residue Biofuel

Celtic Renewables, a Scottish start-up company, has developed the first car to be fueled by a whisky residue biofuel.



Professor Martin Tangney of Celtic Renewables

The fuel — biobutanol — is a new advanced and sustainable biofuel, which is said to be a direct replacement for gasoline and diesel. It's produced from draff — the sugar-rich kernels of barley which are soaked in water to facilitate the fermentation process necessary for whisky production — and pot ale, the copper-containing yeasty liquid that is left over following distillation.

Working closely with Tullibardine Distillery in Perthshire, Scotland, the spinout company from Edinburgh Napier University has developed biobutanol

Each year in Scotland, the malt whisky industry produces almost 750,000 tons of draff and two billion liters of pot ale, and Celtic Renewables plans to put these residues to use by converting them into millions of liters of biofuel.

The team at Celtic Renewables is now ready to showcase for the first time how this can be used to fuel cars today, with no engine modification required.

"This is the first time in history that a car has ever been driven with a biofuel produced from whisky production residues," said Professor Martin Tangney, the company's founder and president. "It is fitting to do this historic drive in Scotland, which is famous not just for its world-renowned whisky, but also for being a powerhouse for renewable energy. Celtic Renewables is playing its part in sustainability by taking this initiative from a research project at Edinburgh Napier University to, what we believe will be, a multi-billion-pound global business with the opportunity to turn transport green."

"Right from the outset when Celtic Renewables approached us, we could see the game-changing potential of a new fuel created from our by-products," added Tullibardine Distillery Manager John Torrance. "We're a forward-thinking distillery, and we're happy to support what promises to be a groundbreaking first for renewable energy, for transport and for the Scottish whisky industry alike."

The Edinburgh-based company recently received £9 million funding support from the Scottish Government as co-investment to build a commercial demonstrator plant in Grangemouth with commissioning due in 2018.

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## Public Health Officials are Overwhelmed!

*Special to Modern Distillery Age by Pamela Erickson, Public Action Management*

Those of us who work on alcohol policy are wondering what has happened to the public health perspective. Many states are considering legislation to change alcohol regulation — often characterized as "modernization."

These debates are often couched as "economic development," but very rarely is there any opposition, perspective, or comment from the public health community. And there is almost no discussion of the harm alcohol causes and the likely consequences of loosening our regulations. Legislators are very focused on creating jobs and tax revenue. Good government policies really need a balanced debate and to have public health officials to weigh in.

But they are overwhelmed with the current opioid overdose epidemic. Indeed, it is shocking. In 2015, there were 52,404 overdose deaths, and 2016 is likely overshoot that amount.

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## Distilled Spirits Council Says Potential E.U. Retaliation Threat Against Bourbon Would Be Misguided

The Distilled Spirits Council issued the following statement in response to news reports regarding the European Union's potential trade retaliation against some U.S. whiskey products in the context of actions the Trump Administration may be considering relative to aluminum and steel imports.

"U.S. and E.U. spirits exporters have enjoyed duty-free access to each other's markets for more than two decades, which has greatly benefitted both spirits producers and consumers and resulted in increased exports, jobs and consumer choice.

"Members of the Distilled Spirits Council have made considerable investments in both the U.S. and the E.U. to create complementary product portfolios comprised of both domestic and imported brands. U.S. whiskeys are an important component of these investment strategies and brand portfolios.

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