HVO: The New Fuel for Yachts

Author: Water Revolution Foundation | 21 February 2025

1. Calculating Annual CO₂ emissions for the yacht using conventional diesel as fuel

Known information

- 1. Assumed fuel consumption: 300 litre/hour
- 2. Assumed annual operation:1,500 hours/year
- 3. Emission factor: 3,206 t CO2 per ton of fuel (Reference; EU, commission delegated regulation (EU) 2016/2071)
- 4. Diesel density: Approximately 0.835 kg/L

Calculations

Fuel consumption per year=300L/hour *1,500hours=450,000L/year

Convert litres to tons of fuel

- Fuel mass = 450,000 L * 0.835 kg/L = 375, 750 kg
- Fuel mass in tons = 375, 750 / 1000 = 375.75 t/year

Calculating CO2 emissions using the emission factor above

- CO2 emissions = 375.75 t fuel/year * 3.206 t CO2/ t fuel
- CO2 emissions = 1,205.38 t CO2/year which is 1,205,380 kg CO2/year

2. Calculating equivalent emission in car

- Average CO2 emission per EU car is 106.4g CO2/km (2023 EU average for new passenger cars, source: European Environmental Agency, EEA)
- Average distance driven per European car is 12,540 km (2021 EU average, source: European Automobile Manufacturer's Association, ACEA)

Annual CO2 per car = 106.4 g CO2/km * 12,540km/year. Annual CO2 per car = 1,334,256 g CO2/year = 1,334.26 kg CO2/year. Carbon emission equivalent to EU cars is Number of cars = Total CO2 emission per year/ Annual CO2 per car à 1,205,380 kg CO2/ year / 1,334.26 kg CO2/year = 903 cars.



Thus the yacht emission is comparable to those of 903 new passenger EU cars

3. calculating equivalent in European citizen

Average annual CO2 emissions per European citizens is 7, 259 kg CO2/year (EU average, including transport, energy use etc., source; Eurostat)

1,205,380 kg CO2/year / 7,259 kg CO2/year = 166. The yacht's emission is equal those of 166 EU citizen per year

4. CO2 savings when using HVO are calculated as follows:

HVO emissions are 10% emission of diesel (90% CO2 saving as assumed by NESTE, the biggest biofuel producers). But for this calculation we assume a 20% emission with respect to diesel to be conservative.

HVO CO2 emission = (375.75 t fuel/year * 3.206 t CO2/t fuel) * 0.2 = 241.08 t CO2/year which is 241,080 kg CO2/year

Calculating Carbon savings: diesel CO2 emissions – HVO CO2 emissions à 1,205,380 kgCO2/year – 241,080 kg CO2/year = 964,300 kg CO2/year.

Calculating Carbon saving emissions equivalency per car: Number of cars = total carbon savings per year/Annual CO2 per car à 964,300 kg CO2/year / 1,334.3 kg CO2/year = 723 cars

Calculating carbon saving emissions equivalency per EU citizen: number of citizens = total carbon savings per year/ Annual CO2 per EU citizen à 964,300 kg CO2/ year / 7,259 kg CO2/year = 133 Eu citizens

Thus carbon savings equivalent to new EU passenger cars: 723 cars per year. Carbon savings equivalent to EU citizens is 133 per citizens.

