

# Re: Summation of Dr Olah's interview on Methanol

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.energy.hydrogen/2006-08/msg00244.html>

---

- *From:* Eeyore <[rabbitsfriendsandrelations@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:rabbitsfriendsandrelations@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 01 Aug 2006 10:33:10 +0100
- 

AKA Gray Asphalt wrote:

"Eeyore" <[rabbitsfriendsandrelations@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:rabbitsfriendsandrelations@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:44CF0C10.E7E7D8ED@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:44CF0C10.E7E7D8ED@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

AKA Gray Asphalt wrote:

"K. Jones" <[K.Jones@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:K.Jones@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:ealu3s0jhr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ealu3s0jhr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Ok, I'll bite. Why methanol?

K. Jones

My understanding is that it can be produced from many sources, can be delivered through present gasoline pumps and pipes, is relatively safe – compared to hydrogen, produces little emissions, and can be run in a way (through a methanol battery) that will change co2 into something less harmful. It can be produced from ethanol, as one of its sources.

It would be nuts to use energy to convert ethanol to methanol when ethanol is already a viable fuel in its own right.

## Re: Summation of Dr Olah's interview on Methanol

But if methanol can be produced without crops and converted to ethanol then any argument for ethanol must apply to methanol minus the cost of conversion but adding the advantage of having more ways to produce, no?

I'm not familiar with how your good Doctor intended to make his methanol I'm afraid. 'Conversion' implies a possible energy loss so isn't to be done lightly.

Desirable fuels as petroleum replacements / substitutes should be liquids at room temp and pressure and compatible with existing fuel infrastructure.

Obvious candidates are methanol, ethanol and butanol for gasoline engines and plant-oil derived bio-diesel for diesel engines !

Isn't butanol more complex of a structure than methanol, thereby creating a more expensive and complicated conversion, etc.?

No. They are all ( methanol, ethanol, butanol ) alcohols.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol>

Just like methane, ethane and butane are alkanes.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alkane>

It's the number of carbon atoms in each that distinguishes them – not unlike the individual components of petroleum fuels ( octane is C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>18</sub> for example – 8 carbon atoms giving the 'oct' ).

Graham

.