

'Green' Ammonia

Green ammonia is key to meeting the twin challenges of the 21st century.



By 2050 there will be ten billion people on the planet.



Using ammonia as fertilizer makes land more productive. Increasingly vital as the population grows and living standards improve.

People need food and energy and it must be CO₂ free – that's where green ammonia comes in.

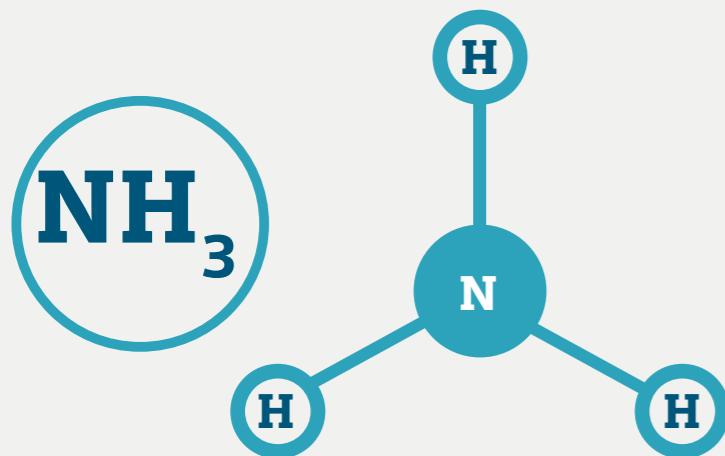
Ammonia

Ammonia is a compound made of nitrogen and hydrogen. Chemical formula NH₃. Ammonia's main use is in fertilizer.



Nitrogen is a harmless odourless gas that makes up 78% of the air around us.

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe. There are 2 hydrogen atoms in every molecule of water.



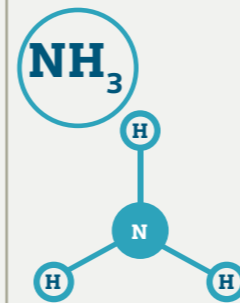
By using water electrolysis and renewable electricity, ammonia production can be made completely carbon-free.

Ammonia

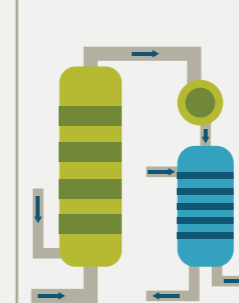
180 Million Tonnes



Ammonia feeds the world: 180 million tonnes were produced in 2015, mainly for use in fertilizers. Growing demand for food means this must rise 3% each year.



Today, ammonia is made using the Haber-Bosch process invented and perfected in the early 1900s. Its two inventors won Nobel prizes in 1918 and 1931.



In the Haber-Bosch process hydrogen and nitrogen are converted to ammonia using high temperature and a catalyst.

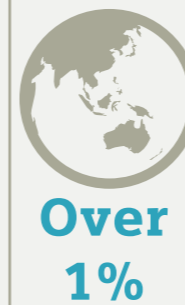


The global trade in ammonia means we already know how to transport and store it safely.

But there is a problem

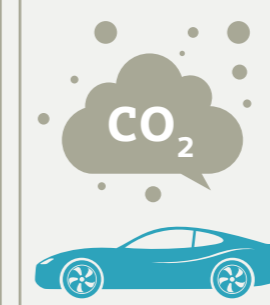


Today the lowest cost way to get hydrogen is from natural gas but this produces carbon-dioxide (CO₂) which is a cause of manmade climate change.

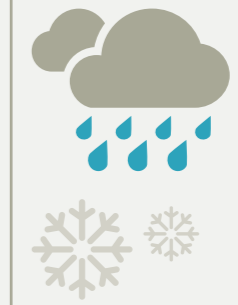


Over 1%

Ammonia production requires energy, and today this energy also comes from fossil fuels. Together with the fossil hydrogen feedstock, current ammonia production accounts for over 1% of global CO₂ emissions.



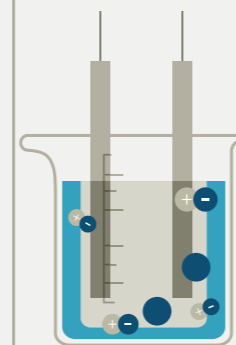
To keep under 2 degrees warming humans must emit no more than 600 billion tonnes more CO₂. That's less than 25 years at the rate today.



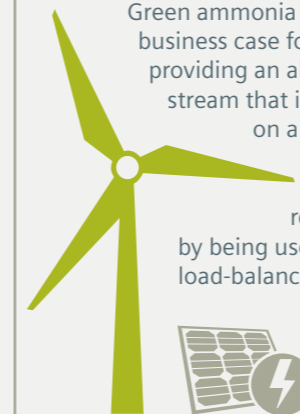
Once CO₂ is released into the atmosphere it will change the climate for the next 10,000 years.

The good news – innovating to create carbon free "green" ammonia

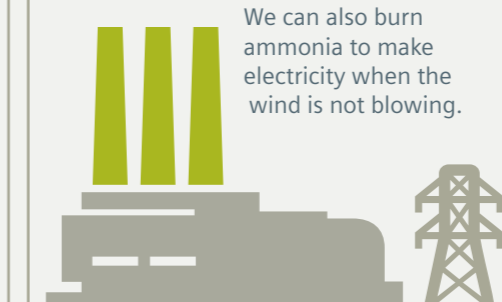
We can make hydrogen from water using electricity – a process known as electrolysis. Passing an electric current through water separates the hydrogen and oxygen.



Green ammonia can support the business case for renewables, by providing an alternative revenue stream that is not dependent on a grid connection (particularly relevant in remote areas), and by being used for load-balancing.



By switching to renewable electricity to make ammonia we could save over 40 million tons of CO₂ each year in Europe alone, or over 360 million tons worldwide.



We can also burn ammonia to make electricity when the wind is not blowing.

When used in this way ammonia turns back into air and water, so doesn't pollute the atmosphere.

Ammonia can even be made to clean up after itself by 'scrubbing' any nitrogen oxides left after combustion. Ammonia is as easy to store safely as LPG. You can even run a car on ammonia.

