Improving Methanol Production Efficiency and Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Ten or more years ago, a typical methanol manufacturing plant would emit about 0.9 - 1.0 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide for every tonne of methanol produced. In addition to the environmental concerns, large CO2 emissions represent operational inefficiencies in a methanol plant, since the carbon emitted as CO2 is not available for making methanol molecules. For these reasons, methanol plants began and continue to focus on efficiency improvements that reduce CO2 emissions.

Through the implementation of efficiency improvements, and through replacing of older facilities with newer plants that use more efficient technologies, over the last decade methanol plants have been able to significantly reduce CO2 emissions by up to 40%; some facilities report emissions as low as 0.54 tonnes of CO2 / tonne of methanol produced. This is equivalent to emitting 3.8 lbs of CO2 per gallon of methanol.

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The Methanol Institute serves as the trade association for the global methanol industry.

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