



# Annual Report 2025

## Introduction

In 2025, the Climate Ethanol Alliance (CEA) transitioned from a newly established organization into an active global advocacy platform. Building on its foundation in 2024, CEA significantly expanded its policy engagement, with a strong strategic pivot toward the maritime sector.

The year was marked by increased international recognition, deeper institutional engagement, and the successful positioning of ethanol as a viable solution in new sectors—most notably shipping. This report summarizes CEA’s key activities, achievements, and developments throughout 2025.

## Organisational Development and Growth

Following its formal establishment in 2024, CEA focused in 2025 on operationalizing the organization and strengthening its institutional capacity.

Key achievements included:

- Establishment of core administrative infrastructure (banking, accounting, invoicing, legal framework)
- Revision of Articles of Association and governance processes
- Successful General Assemblies and formal approval of organizational documents
- Expansion of membership, including new supporting members such as ICM and Alcogroup

Importantly, CEA secured external support:

- A sponsorship agreement with the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) to support maritime activities
- Increased industry engagement from global ethanol producers and related stakeholders

These developments positioned CEA as a credible, functioning international alliance with growing global reach.

CLIMATE ETHANOL ALLIANCE

ADDRESS H-1051 BUDAPEST, ZRÍNYI UTCA 16. III/8. EMAIL [CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM](mailto:CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM)

WEB [CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM](http://CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM)

## Policy Advocacy and International Engagement

### International Energy Agency (IEA)

CEA maintained close engagement with the IEA throughout 2025:

- Co-initiated and participated in the **IEA Sustainable Fuels Workshop (April, Paris)**—a first involving the ethanol industry
- Successfully advocated for ethanol’s inclusion in broader fuel discussions
- Influenced IEA thinking on both **maritime fuels** and **high-octane fuels (E20)**

Notably, the IEA’s 2025 report *Delivering Sustainable Fuels: Pathways to 2035* included references to **mid-level ethanol blends (E20–E30)**—a significant policy milestone.

### International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

2025 marked a breakthrough year for CEA in maritime policy:

- **Consultative Status Granted**  
CEA became the **first-ever biofuel industry representative at IMO**, a major strategic achievement
- **Active Engagement**
  - Participation in IMO committees and working groups
  - Submission of technical recommendations (e.g., ethanol safety differentiation from methanol)
  - Engagement in lifecycle analysis (LCA) discussions and fuel standardization
- **Strategic Influence**  
CEA worked to shape the debate around the IMO Net Zero Framework (NZF), emphasizing:
  - The role of ethanol as a scalable low-carbon fuel
  - The importance of viewing IMO policy as both climate and trade policy

Despite progress, adoption of the NZF faced delays due to geopolitical dynamics, particularly U.S. opposition.

### Maritime Industry Engagement

Maritime became CEA’s **top strategic priority** in 2025.

Key activities included:

- Direct engagement with major shipowners (Maersk, CMA CGM)
- Outreach to OEMs and maritime organizations (ICS, World Shipping Council)
- Participation in major maritime events (Hamburg, London International Shipping Week)
- Development of targeted materials:



- Ethanol in Maritime (general note)
- Shipowner-focused communications
- Policy memos supporting IMO negotiations

These efforts revealed:

- Limited awareness of ethanol in shipping
- Strong conservatism among shipowners
- Lack of cost-based fuel comparisons

CEA successfully positioned ethanol as an **emerging and credible marine fuel option**.

United States and Global Policy Engagement

CEA played an active role in shaping international policy narratives:

- Engagement with U.S. stakeholders via RFA and USGC
- Contribution to shifting U.S. understanding of IMO negotiations as a **trade issue**
- Coordination with Brazil and other stakeholders on ethanol pathways

The U.S. position at IMO emerged as a **critical factor influencing global outcomes**.

Road Transport and Fuel Standards

CEA continued its advocacy on high-octane fuels:

- Progress on **E20 standardization** within CEN, the European standardisation body
- Engagement with IEA and global stakeholders on octane policy
- Recognition of E20 in international policy discussions

While the European Commission signaled no immediate policy shift, international momentum increased.

Key Initiatives and Publications

Maritime Policy Framework

CEA developed a comprehensive set of maritime policy materials:

- Ethanol in Maritime (general framework)
- Shipowner communication strategy
- U.S. policy memo for IMO negotiations

CLIMATE ETHANOL ALLIANCE

**ADDRESS** H-1051 BUDAPEST, ZRÍNYI UTCA 16. III/8. **EMAIL** CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM

**WEB** CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM



Marine Ethanol Platform (Launched November 2025)

A major milestone of the year was the launch of the **Marine Ethanol Platform**, bringing together:

- Shipowners (e.g., Arklow)
- OEMs (e.g., ABC)
- Ethanol producers (e.g., Pannonia Bio, Alcogroup)

The platform aims to address:

- Technical barriers
- Regulatory challenges
- Commercial adoption

This initiative represents the **first coordinated global effort** to advance ethanol in maritime.

## Events and Conferences

CEA actively participated in and contributed to major industry events:

- IEA Sustainable Fuels Workshop (Paris)
- Global Ethanol Summit (Washington DC)
- World Ethanol & Biofuels Conference (Brussels)
- London International Shipping Week
- Advanced Biofuels Forum (Amsterdam)

Notably, CEA:

- Introduced maritime topics into ethanol conferences
- Moderated the **first maritime-focused ethanol panels**
- Elevated ethanol's profile in cross-sector discussions

## Communication and Outreach

LinkedIn emerged as CEA's primary communication channel, generating strong engagement on:

- IMO developments
- Maritime strategy
- High-octane fuels

CLIMATE ETHANOL ALLIANCE

**ADDRESS** H-1051 BUDAPEST, ZRÍNYI UTCA 16. III/8. **EMAIL** CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM

**WEB** CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM



Media coverage included:

- [TradeWinds](#) (coverage of Marine Ethanol Platform launch)

CEA's visibility and credibility increased significantly across both policy and industry audiences.

## Capacity Building and Resources

Key developments:

- Secured financial support (new supporting members)
- Increased interest from major industry players, such as Copersucar
- Strengthened global representation through members

Challenges remained:

- Limited financial resources relative to ambition
- Need for deeper engagement with shipowners at decision-making level

## Future Directions

Looking ahead, CEA will focus on:

- **Maritime Leadership**
  - Expand the Marine Ethanol Platform
  - Increase engagement with shipowners and OEMs
  - Influence IMO NZF adoption
- **Policy Influence**
  - Continue engagement with IEA and IMO
  - Strengthen global policy coordination (U.S., EU, Brazil)
- **Market Development**
  - Support real-world trials of ethanol in shipping
  - Advance standardization and certification frameworks
- **Organizational Growth**
  - Expand membership base
  - Secure sustainable funding
  - Strengthen internal capacity

CLIMATE ETHANOL ALLIANCE

ADDRESS H-1051 BUDAPEST, ZRÍNYI UTCA 16. III/8. EMAIL [CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM](mailto:CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM)

WEB [CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM](http://CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM)



## Conclusion

The year 2025 marked a **transformational phase** for the Climate Ethanol Alliance.

CEA evolved from a newly established organization into a **recognized global voice**, particularly in maritime decarbonization. Achievements such as obtaining IMO consultative status and launching the Marine Ethanol Platform underscore the Alliance's growing influence.

While challenges remain—especially in policy alignment and market adoption—CEA has successfully positioned ethanol at the center of emerging decarbonization pathways.

The Alliance is well placed to build on this momentum and play a decisive role in shaping the future of sustainable fuels.

CLIMATE ETHANOL ALLIANCE

**ADDRESS** H-1051 BUDAPEST, ZRÍNYI UTCA 16. III/8. **EMAIL** [CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM](mailto:CEA@CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM)

**WEB** [CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM](http://CLIMATEETHANOLALLIANCE.COM)