



INSIGHTS | 2026

THE ROAD TO SAF IN MEXICO

Opportunities, Technology Pathways
and the Challenges Ahead



SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL MARKET & DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

Hallow Energy | Applied energy intelligence for complex project development

Why SAF, Why Mexico, Why Now?

Aviation needs SAF. Scaling it is the challenge.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel has moved from technical demonstration toward commercial deployment, but global supply remains extremely limited.

Global SAF production is expected to reach approximately 2.4 million tonnes in 2026, representing only 0.8% of global aviation fuel consumption. Meeting aviation's longer-term decarbonization objectives will require a dramatic expansion in production, infrastructure and sustainable feedstock supply.

2.4 Mt

Expected global SAF production in 2026

0.8%

Share of global aviation fuel consumption

2% -> 70%

ReFuelEU SAF requirement, 2025 -> 2050

Policy is beginning to create structural demand. In Europe, ReFuelEU Aviation requires SAF to account for 2% of aviation fuel supplied at EU airports from 2025, rising to 6% by 2030 and 70% by 2050.

Mexico enters this transition with significant aviation activity, an established fuel-distribution network, agricultural and industrial resources, and direct access to major North American and international markets. But these advantages do not automatically translate into a viable SAF industry.

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Mexico has many of the ingredients for a SAF industry. The challenge is connecting them into a competitive, certifiable and financeable value chain.

Mexico's SAF Market Is Beginning to Take Shape

From policy discussion to early market formation.

Mexico does not yet have a mature domestic SAF production industry, but the institutional framework required to support one is beginning to take shape.

Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxiliares (ASA), together with federal agencies and industry participants, is developing a national SAF roadmap addressing regulation, feedstocks, technology, infrastructure and other elements of the value chain. In 2026, this effort expanded through technical working groups and the ASA-SAF MX Summit 2026.

ASA's 2025-2030 Institutional Program establishes concrete objectives for SAF deployment: a pilot SAF blending and storage facility in Mexico City, a subsequent blending facility in Cancun, a Green Flights program, and the planning, design and potential construction of a domestic SAF biorefinery targeted for 2029-2030.



MARKET SIGNAL

Mexico is moving from SAF discussion toward early-stage market formation.

Feedstock Will Determine Mexico's SAF Pathway

Start with the resource - not the technology.

Mexico should not begin by asking whether HEFA, Alcohol-to-Jet or Fischer-Tropsch is the 'best' SAF technology. It should begin with a more fundamental question:

Which sustainable feedstocks can Mexico aggregate, certify and deliver at commercial scale - and at what cost?

Feedstock availability on paper is not enough. A viable resource must be recoverable, consistent, traceable, sustainable and economically transportable to a conversion facility. Seasonality, competing uses, collection infrastructure, sustainability requirements and transportation distances can materially reduce the volume actually available to a SAF producer.

FATS, OILS & GREASES

Used cooking oil | animal fats | vegetable oils

HEFA

ALCOHOLS

Ethanol from eligible renewable feedstocks

ALCOHOL-TO-JET

BIOMASS & WASTES

Agricultural residues | forestry residues | selected wastes

FISCHER-TROPSCH

DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLE

Technology selection should follow feedstock validation - not the other way around.

HEFA, ATJ or Fischer-Tropsch?

Different resources lead to different development pathways.

There is no single SAF technology that is inherently optimal for Mexico. Each pathway combines different feedstock requirements, commercial maturity, infrastructure needs, conversion complexity and development risks.

	HEFA	ATJ	FT
Feedstock	Fats, oils & greases	Alcohols / ethanol	Biomass & wastes
Maturity	High	Early commercial / scaling	Developing for biomass SAF
Advantage	Proven deployment	Broader feedstock potential	Broad resource flexibility
Constraint	Lipid availability	Economics & carbon intensity	Complexity & logistics
Mexico role	Near-term	Strategically important	Longer-term potential

HEFA is currently the most commercially established route to meaningful SAF volumes. ATJ is strategically relevant because ethanol can be produced from multiple renewable resources; Mexico's established sugarcane industry makes this pathway worthy of further evaluation. Fischer-Tropsch can open a wider resource base but introduces additional conversion and feedstock-logistics complexity.

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Mexico may ultimately require multiple SAF pathways rather than a single technological winner.

Potential Is Not the Same as Bankability

Five challenges stand between SAF potential and commercial deployment.

01

FEEDSTOCK

Availability is not enough.

Sustainable, traceable and economically recoverable supply.

02

TECHNOLOGY

Commercial maturity matters.

Conversion performance must match feedstock and required scale.

03

CERTIFICATION

Renewable is not automatically CORSIA-eligible.

Technical fuel qualification and sustainability eligibility are different layers.

04

ECONOMICS & CAPITAL

The SAF premium remains a challenge.

Technical capacity alone does not guarantee economic production.

05

OFFTAKE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Production is only half the value chain.

Customers, storage, blending, logistics and airport access must develop early.

A SAF plant is not a standalone asset. It is the center of an interconnected supply chain.

From Potential to Competitive Advantage

Mexico needs its own SAF development model.

Mexico does not necessarily need to replicate the SAF model emerging in the United States or Europe. Its opportunity will depend on building a system around its own feedstocks, industrial capabilities, aviation demand, infrastructure and geographic position.

KNOW THE RESOURCE

Regional intelligence based on recoverable and certifiable supply.

MATCH TECHNOLOGY TO RESOURCES

Select pathways and scale around verified feedstocks and infrastructure.

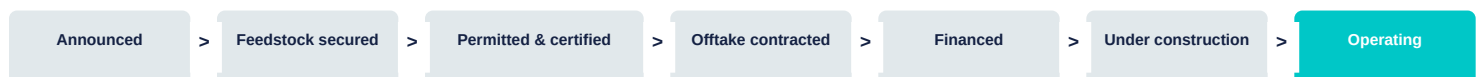
BUILD THE COMMERCIAL CHAIN EARLY

Develop certification, logistics, blending and offtake alongside engineering.

CREATE BANKABLE CONDITIONS

Align policy certainty, contracts, incentives and risk allocation with capital.

ANNOUNCEMENT ≠ EXECUTION



STRATEGIC THESIS

Mexico does not need to replicate another country's SAF model. It needs to build one around its own resources, infrastructure and market realities.

From Opportunity to Execution

Connecting the elements that make complex energy projects possible.

Mexico has many of the ingredients required to participate in the emerging SAF economy. But potential alone will not create an industry. Successful development requires multiple elements to be aligned from the beginning.



At Hallow Energy, we approach energy-transition development through this integrated lens - connecting the commercial, technical, regulatory and supply-chain elements required to move complex opportunities toward executable projects.

In sustainable aviation fuels, Hallow Energy is actively assessing the commercial, technological and supply-chain conditions required to support future SAF development in Mexico and Latin America.

HALLOW ENERGY

Connecting the elements that make complex energy projects possible.