

DAVID BLUME

Education and Training

San Francisco State University, BS, Ecological Biology & Biosystemics, 1977

Research and Professional Experience

Cofounder & Chief Executive Officer, Blume Distillation & Whiskey Hill Farms, Watsonville, CA, 2009-present.

Executive Director, International Institute for Ecological Agriculture, 1993-present.

Honors and Awards

Recipient, Truth in Agricultural Journalism Award, American Corn Growers Association, 2009.

Refereed Publications

None

Technical Publications

Alcohol Can Be a Gas! Fueling an Ethanol Revolution for the 21st Century,
Soquel, California: The International Institute for Ecological Agriculture, 2007

David Blume founded the International Institute for Ecological Agriculture in 1993 and currently serves as its Executive Director. IIEA is a non-profit organization dedicated to healing the planet while providing the human community with research, education, and the implementation of socially just, ecologically sound, resource-conserving forms of agriculture.

Blume focused his academic studies on Ecological Biology and Biosystematics at San Francisco State University from 1974 to 1977. He then went to work at the Mother Earth News Eco Village in North Carolina, where he headed up its alcohol fuel program. In 1978, Blume started the American Homegrown Fuel Co., Inc., and was its president. In less than three years, AHFC conducted workshops for over 7,500 people on alcohol fuel production and use. In the late 1970s, Blume worked for NASA (US National Aeronautics and Space Administration), designing and debugging a system that integrated a solar-powered boiler, water desalination, closed sewage treatment, and solar-powered air conditioning, which was installed at the Frenchman's Reef Hotel in the US Virgin Islands.

In 1983, Blume and the television station KQED in San Francisco premiered a 10-part television series featuring Blume, called *Alcohol As Fuel*. The series press opening featured R. Buckminster Fuller, Ernest Callenbach (author of *Ecotopia*),

Gordon Cooper (former astronaut and aerospace engineer), and Bill Paynter. In its short run in San Francisco, the series received tens of thousands of letters demanding a book.

In 1989, Mr. Blume joined the board of Vivamos Mejor, based in San Rafael, California, as the Director of Agro-Ecology Projects. Vivamos Mejor provided informational and logistical resources in developing countries in order to assist small entrepreneurs. Blume spent a year in Mexico, during which time he developed and implemented an integrated ecological project with a cooperative of the Nahuatl people, using agricultural waste from coffee production as a base material to grow oyster mushrooms, a highly nutritious food, and other high-value co-products. Blume served on the Vivamos Mejor board from 1989 to 1992.

In the early 1990s, Blume joined the board of the non-profit Committee for Sustainable Agriculture (now very well known as the Ecological Farming Association). He was a Board Member for three years. During 1990–91, he was also Executive Director of Hidden Villa Farm, an environmental education organization, summer camp, and school-year adjunct education center for 25 school districts in the state of California.

In 1993, Blume went on to build a new organization called the International Institute for Ecological Agriculture, with its main project, “Our Farm,” a Community-Supported Agriculture program. During its 10-year life, Our Farm trained over 250 farmers from around the world in the CSA model of farming. Graduates operate CSAs in the US and as far away as Israel and Indonesia. At its peak, Our Farm, located on a terraced 35-degree slope, used Blume’s permaculture design techniques to produce sufficient crops to feed approximately 450 people for nearly 10 years, with a yield of 100,000+ pounds of fresh produce per acre. Blume continues to periodically hold two-week training courses in permaculture design, which have been attended by more than 1,000 people in the past 12 years.

Blume self-published his book, *Alcohol Can Be A Gas!*, in November 2007. It was the 19th best-selling book on Amazon.com® in July 2008, and during its first year it held Amazon’s #1 spot for book sales nearly continuously in the categories of sustainable agriculture, chemical engineering, and automotive. It is in its third printing and has approximately 30,000 copies in circulation worldwide. Blume has maintained a public profile as a speaker on ethanol issues. He appeared in 2008 on National Public Radio’s *Science Friday* with Ira Flatow, has been a commentator on Huffington Post, and has been a guest on nationally syndicated radio programs hosted by such personalities as Thom Hartmann and Lou Dobbs. Blume has spoken at hundreds of Industry and technology conferences around the world and is a recipient of the American Corn Growers Association’s “Truth in Agricultural Journalism” award.