

# NO ETHANOL

# FERNANDINA

## **10 KEY FACTS ABOUT THE BATTLE TO STOP ETHANOL MANUFACTURING IN FERNANDINA BEACH ON AMELIA ISLAND**

1. On December 19, 2024, Rayonier Advanced Materials (RYAM) filed for site plan approval to build an ethanol manufacturing facility at its Fernandina Beach Gum Street location.
2. On February 4, 2025, the City of Fernandina Beach denied the application, saying it constitutes chemical manufacturing or refining that is strictly prohibited by both the City's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.
3. March 6, 2025 is the deadline for RYAM to appeal to the City's Board of Adjustment.
4. RYAM asserts its ethanol production would not use either chemical processes or refining processes and therefore should be allowed.
5. Ethanol is a highly flammable hazardous chemical that carries substantial risk of accidental fires and explosions.
6. If built, the plant would be adjacent to a densely populated area within the City and situated along the environmentally sensitive Amelia River.
7. It would produce 7.5 million gallons of ethanol a year, which would require three tanker trucks a day (over 1000 a year) for transport, cutting through a dense residential area, then traveling the busy commercial route through our city, across the Shave Bridge, and over the busiest roads in Nassau County to I-95.
8. The US Department of Transportation (DOT) recommends evacuation zones as wide as a 1/2 mile in all directions from the site of any tanker truck incident involving ethanol.
9. RYAM's proposal is silent on the need to plan for evacuations in the city and county.
10. RYAM's accuracy in the level of pollutants they expect to be emitted to the air, ground and water has been questioned by chemical experts.

## **DANGERS OF MANUFACTURING ETHANOL IN FERNANDINA BEACH**

### **Why not here?**

No Ethanol Fernandina recognizes the efficacy of ethanol as an alternative fuel source, but we are against manufacturing it adjacent to a densely populated residential area on Amelia Island and along the environmentally sensitive Amelia River. It is simply too dangerous.

### **Ethanol is highly flammable**

Ethanol is highly flammable and carries substantial risk of accidental fires and explosions by producing it within a manufacturing site that already processes large quantities of other extremely hazardous and highly reactive chemicals.

Ethanol can vaporize into a dangerous gas at any temperature above 57 degrees Fahrenheit. Flammable ethanol vapors can travel along the ground, be ignited by a spark, and the resulting fire can flash back to the source of the ethanol vapor leak. There are many potential sources of spark in close proximity to the proposed ethanol manufacturing site.

### **Ethanol is harmful to aquatic life**

Ethanol presents environmental concerns, particularly in the event of a spill. If ethanol enters water systems, it can reduce oxygen levels, which harms aquatic life.

### **Ethanol producers dangerous air emissions**

Ethanol plants can be linked to air pollution, especially if proper mitigation measures are not in place. Hazardous air pollutants such as benzene and acetaldehyde could potentially be released into the environment, posing risks to both residents and wildlife. Additionally, facilities such as these play a role in contributing to global greenhouse gas emissions, accelerating the devastating effects of climate change. Source: [The Environmental Integrity Project](#).

### **Ethanol creates additional safety risks on our roads**

If the facility is constructed, three tanker trucks a day (over 1000 a year) will cut through a dense residential area, then travel the busy commercial route through our city, across the Shave Bridge, and over the busiest roads in Nassau County to I-95.

The US Department of Transportation recommends evacuation zones as wide as a 1/2 mile in all directions from the site of any tanker truck incident involving ethanol.

### **RYAM has demonstrated a lack of diligence on these dangers, and claims ethanol manufacturing is not a chemical process**

- RYAM's proposal is silent on the need to plan for evacuations in the city and county.
- RYAM's accuracy in the level of pollutants they expect to be emitted to the air, ground and water has been questioned by chemical experts.
- RYAM claims its ethanol manufacturing is not a "chemical" process but rather a "fermentation" process and not a "chemical" process, and therefore is allowable under the City's CP and LDC.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### Stay informed and spread the word

- Follow us on Facebook [NO Ethanol Fernandina/Fernandina Wins, Inc.](#)
- Visit our website [www.noethanolfernandina.com](http://www.noethanolfernandina.com)
  - Sign up for our newsletter
  - Share our toolkit
  - Read the [In the News](#) and [Resources](#) sections
- Attend City Commission meetings at City Hall
- Attend City's Board of Adjustment meeting at City Hall (likely March 19 or April 16)

### Help us be prepared

- [Donate](#) to No Ethanol Fernandina to cover legal counsel and awareness campaigns

### Get ready to be vocal

- Watch for requests to send Letters to the Editor of local newspapers
- Watch for notices to attend and speak at key government meetings and/or hearings

## **WHAT IS NO ETHANOL FERNANDINA**

No Ethanol Fernandina is the official “doing business as” name for a community advocacy group that is organized under Fernandina Wins, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation.

### **Our Role**

- Monitor the approval process Rayonier Advanced Materials (RYAM) must go through before they are allowed to begin construction
- Take legal action when warranted
- Keep the community informed on status
- Educate the community about the dangers of ethanol production and risks to our community
- Mobilize community opposition

### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to mobilize a diverse coalition of concerned citizens, local businesses, and community leaders to prevent the construction of RYAM's ethanol chemical manufacturing plant in Fernandina Beach. We are committed to safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of our residents, protecting our environment, and preserving the unique character of our community.

### **Our Vision and Purpose**

Fernandina Wins, Inc. DBA No Ethanol Fernandina is a passionate coalition of citizens dedicated to protecting the health, environment, and quality of life of our community.

We are united in our determination to prevent the manufacturing of the chemical ethanol in Fernandina Beach at RYAM's Gum Street plant adjacent to residences, businesses, schools, churches, and our historic downtown.

Through education, advocacy, and grassroots mobilization, we will tirelessly work to ensure that the interests of our community are prioritized over corporate profits, and that the beauty and tranquility of our island are preserved for future generations.

We will not compromise on our commitment to a safe, sustainable, and environmentally responsible future for Fernandina Beach and Nassau County.

### **Our Board**

Tom Budd, President, Communication & Fundraising Committees Sponsor  
John Hart, Treasurer, Legal Committee Sponsor  
Julie Ferreira, Secretary, Volunteer & Events Committees Sponsor  
Franklin Hileman, Director, Government Relations Committee Sponsor  
Len Kreger, Director, City Relations Advisor

## **Our Financial Structure**

Fernandina Wins, Inc. is an official Florida not-for-profit entity duly registered as a Charity accepting donations, and we have applied for our 501(c)3 exemption with the IRS. The application and fee paid status gives us the ability to operate as a 501(c)3 while our approval is pending.

We operate with financial transparency. No Board member receives a salary or other compensation except for an occasional expense reimbursement. We use donations to fund our digital communication platforms and for professional fees, including legal and marketing.

Read our [2024 Financial Statement](#) and [Reimbursement Expense Detail](#).

We established Fernandina Wins, Inc. as the parent organization of No Ethanol Fernandina because we believe it is likely our community will face similar challenges in the future. We want to be prepared to engage and rally like-minded citizens to support other efforts to protect and preserve the charm, character and safety of Fernandina Beach and Amelia Island once the fight to stop ethanol production is won. We will discuss, coordinate and secure approval of any future engagement with our supporters.

Should any funds remain after the fight to stop ethanol is concluded, upon request, Fernandina Wins, Inc., will return to any donor a pro-rated share of their donation. Should Fernandina Wins, Inc. decide to cease operation, it is a requirement that we distribute all remaining funds to other 501(c)3 entities, such as Conserve Nassau and / or the Amelia Tree Conservancy.