5/1/09

Beaver Biodiesel LLC of Corvallis Oregon is expanding current production capacity for biodiesel fuel, and is upgrading equipment to recover and recycle materials used in production, insure product quality, while increasing overall production efficiency.

Beaver will expand production capacity from 450,000 gallons annually to 1.2 million gallons of premium quality, renewable biodiesel fuel manufactured from recycled cooking oil.

Biodiesel is a biodegradable and nontoxic diesel fuel substitute that reduces our dependence on costly imported foreign oil. Biodiesel can be used in late-model (after 1992) diesel engines without any need to modify the engines beforehand. Biodiesel is actually good for diesel engines. It lubricates better than petroleum-based diesel fuel and biodiesel and can be blended with diesel fuel in any proportion.

The environmental benefits of the use of biodiesel over petroleum diesel include:

- Biodiesel reduces lifecycle CO_2 emission by 78% compared to petroleum diesel, slowing global warming. As a result of Beaver Biodiesel's increased production capacity, 5,700 tons annually of CO_2 will not be emitted to the atmosphere in vehicle exhaust.
- Clean air: Combustion of biodiesel provides a 56% reduction in hydrocarbon emissions and yields significant reductions in carbon monoxide and soot particles compared to petroleum based diesel fuel. Also, biodiesel can reduce the carcinogenic properties of diesel fuel by 94%.
- Good for engines: Tests have shown that blending biodiesel with petroleum-based diesel fuel increases the lubricity of diesel fuel, reducing engine wear.

Producing biodiesel from recycled vegetable cooking oil instead of new food grade vegetable oil eliminates the competition for food uses and fuel uses, of oil. Biodiesel produced from recycled oil has significant social advantages because it does not diminish food supplies.

Beaver Biodiesel LLC, lead by Daniel Shafer, uses recycled vegetable oil as the primary feedstock to produce Biodiesel. Biodiesel production involves refining recycled vegetable oil into a clean burning, renewable substitute for petroleum diesel fuel by chemically separating glycerol from vegetable oil esters via substitution with a reacting alcohol. Beaver Biodiesel's byproduct glycerol is used to produce renewable methane and green electricity. Beaver Biodiesel employs a full-time staff of five chemical and biological engineers.

Beaver is expanding in response to the passage of Oregon House Bill 3463, which sets a new trigger for the state-wide biodiesel content mandate. After one month from signature by the Governor, all diesel sold in Oregon must contain 2% biodiesel. Once HB 3463 is fully implemented demand for Biodiesel in Oregon is estimated to increase to at least 15 million gallons per year.