

## Law pumps use of biodiesel

BETH CASPER Statesman Journal

August 7, 2009

A mandate that requires 2 percent biodiesel in every gallon of diesel in nine Northwest counties has local biodiesel companies gearing up to meet demand.

The mandate goes statewide Oct. 1.

Salem-based SeQuential Pacific Biodiesel — the largest biodiesel producer in Oregon — has a 5 million gallon annual capacity. But the mandate creates such a demand for the yellow-grease-turned-fuel that plant managers want to create even more.

"We are already talking about expanding beyond 5 million gallons," said Tyson Kever, the general manager for the plant. "It's a night-and-day change from a month ago when we weren't able to sell product."

Now, biodiesel is "flying" out of tanks, Kever said.

Legislation passed this session helped trigger the 2 percent mandate, called "B2." It requires the mandate to be implemented when Oregon has the capacity to produce 5 million gallons per year.

Oregon now has a capacity to produce between 8 million and 10 million gallons of biodiesel.

The Salem plant is not alone in its success related to the mandate.

Other producers, including Beaver Biodiesel in Corvallis, are gearing up for increased need for biodiesel.

"The B2 mandate is clearly going to help us," said Daniel Shafer of Beaver Biodiesel, which will soon be running at a 1.2 million gallon annual capacity. "Today we have the ability to blend and distribute any blend of biodiesel. We have our own truck and blender. We buy diesel and blend it. We produce premium biodiesel fuel."

So far, consumers have not seen diesel prices rise. At the DeHart Shell gas station on Mission Street SE, for example, diesel is \$2.65 per gallon, the same as last week.

[bcasper@StatesmanJournal.com](mailto:bcasper@StatesmanJournal.com) or (503) 589-6994



**Thomas Patterson | Statesman Journal**  
Dave Lahey drains an Encore Oil truck of its used cooking oil, which is then transformed into biodiesel and shipped from the SeQuential Pacific Biodiesel Plant on Turner Road SE.

### The basics

A mandate that requires 2 percent biodiesel in every gallon of diesel sold went into effect in nine Northwest counties, including Marion and Polk counties. The rest of the state will follow Oct. 1.

The city of Portland already requires a 5 percent blend of biodiesel in all diesel sold in the city.