

NEWS RELEASE

Fill 'Er Up!" with Clean Burning Biodiesel Six BC Municipalities to Purchase 80 Million Litres for Their Fleets Under New Government Program

Vancouver, BC (March 30, 2005) – Fraser Basin Council Chair Patrick Reid joined Western Economic Diversification Canada Minister Stephen Owen and BC Minister of Energy and Mines Richard Neufeld in Vancouver along with representatives from six BC municipalities to announce the BC Biofleet program – Canada's largest biodiesel demonstration project to date.

Over the next five years, Vancouver, Whistler, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and Delta have agreed to purchase up to 80 million litres of this cleaner-burning alternative fuel. Additional provincial, Crown corporation and private sector fleets will also participate in the program.

Biodiesel is a biodegradable alternative fuel produced from renewable sources such as used vegetable oils, animal fats and trap grease, and domestically produced oilseed crops such as soy, canola and hemp. It cuts exhaust emissions, minimizing black smoke, odour and greenhouse gas emissions, and does not contribute to acid rain.

"The Fraser Basin Council and Fleet Challenge BC have spearheaded a number of programs to reduce harmful emissions from fleet vehicles while developing clean industries to help diversify B.C.'s economy," said Patrick Reid, Council Chair. "Biodiesel is another tool in our arsenal to accomplish our vision of social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment."

"Western Economic Diversification Canada supported this demonstration project as part of a larger innovation strategy, to increase awareness of biodiesel's environmental benefits and stimulate its use and production," said Minister Owen. "Finding new renewable sources of energy is vital to protecting our natural environment and building sustainable economies."

"Biodiesel is a proven and potentially homegrown fuel that we can use to improve air quality and green our provincial fleet," said Neufeld. "We are moving forward on actions in our 2002 Energy Plan to ensure cleaner air and healthy communities. This project will showcase British Columbia as a leader in sustainable environmental management."

"The City of Vancouver and the other municipalities involved in this project are committed to reducing greenhouse gases and improving air quality," said Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell. "Purchasing up to 80 million litres of blended biodiesel for use in our fleets over the next five years provides another opportunity to meet these objectives."

Mayor Campbell was joined at the Vancouver announcement by City of North Vancouver Mayor Barbara Sharp, Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan, Delta Mayor Lois Jackson, Acting Mayor of Whistler Kristi Wells and Acting Mayor Kiichi Kumagai of the City of Richmond.

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