

EAST TENNESSEE CLEAN FUELS



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The ETCFC is a designated participant in the U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY OF OAK RIDGE NOW ON FLEET-WIDE BIODIESEL Anderson County now on the Biodiesel-using Map with both Oak Ridge and BWXT Y-12 using the fuel

Oak Ridge, TN - With a little testing and creative implementation, the director of public works for Oak Ridge moved the city to using a 5 percent blend of biodiesel in all of its diesel equipment. That includes roughly 100 pieces of equipment like school buses, utility vehicles, fire trucks, service trucks, dump trucks and off-road equipment.

Gary Cinder worked with Brian Jenks of Anderson County to apply for state funding to get a new tank that would allow them to try a biodiesel blend in some vehicles without having to switch over all the fleet at once in their main tank. Over about six months, Cinder slowly moved more vehicles over to using the B5 blend until in January when he decided things were going well and it was time to take a bigger step. Cinder says, "All the vehicles using B5 had no problems so we just made the decision to move to B5 in our main tank... I just didn't tell anybody. Low and behold a month later I hadn't heard a peep out of any of the drivers."

Now almost two months after the switch (while going through the colder part of the year), all things are still moving forward. "We've had only positive comments from the staff, and some of those are very positive. Some of our war veterans like the fact that we are putting our money back into American farmers' pockets in lieu of the pockets of people in the Middle East," continues Cinder. "We plan to segue to a B20 blend by late spring or early summer."

With the addition of Oak Ridge, four of the six largest cities in East Tennessee all use biodiesel blends throughout their diesel fleet, and that includes the top three: Knoxville, Chattanooga and Johnson City.



Top: A sticker that the city has developed to show their use of biodiesel. Bottom: The refueling facility off Blank Drive.

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Additionally, Y-12 National Security Complex moved its 100 diesel vehicles to B20 last October. Fleet Manager Lyle Bennett says, "We are pleased to have made a seamless transition to B20. Overall we have had only some fuel filter changes to deal with."

Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning, renewable, American-made fuel that can be used in any diesel vehicle or equipment and is made from vegetable oils or animal fats. It is not vegetable oil mixed with diesel. Its expanded use by public and private vehicle fleets and individuals is improving air quality in East Tennessee and reducing our nation's dependence on petroleum, including that sourced from foreign countries.

The ETCFC estimates that now over 100 fleets in East Tennessee are using biodiesel blends, and that number is clearly growing. To see all the stations that offer biodiesel in the region, and to see a list of the known fleets in East Tennessee that are using biodiesel, see <www.ETCleanFuels.org>.