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NEWS RELEASE

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KNOXVILLE GOES TO FLEETWIDE BIODIESEL

B20 the New Standard as it Joins other Municipalities in East TN on Biodiesel

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Knoxville, TN - The largest city in East Tennessee today completes a move to fleetwide B20. The City of Knoxville's Lorraine Street garage and refueling center is receiving a tanker load of 20 percent biodiesel blended with 80 percent diesel, also known as B20, following the switch at other city diesel refueling centers.

The city's diesel fleet began its switch to biodiesel last fall by putting a 5 percent blend of biodiesel in their diesel—or B5—in the Prosser Road tank, and selected about 30 vehicles to refuel there. Over time the blend was increased to B20.

"That allowed us to follow the plusses and minuses of the switch in a variety yet a smaller quantity of vehicles, so that any problems would be more manageable," says Mel Cummings, the city's fleet manager. "Yet our only problem was that we didn't have any. Of the few comments we received, they related to drivers who noticed a different smell or more power. So far it's proven to be quite a simple transition for us."

The city has approximately 220 vehicles and 30 pieces of stationary equipment that run on diesel, for a total of around 250. That equipment uses on the order of 300,000 gallons of diesel annually. Using B20 will offset 60,000 gallons of diesel annually with B100 or pure biodiesel, of which about 60% of that—36,000 gallons—are foreign sourced.

Additionally, assuming average heavy duty diesel emission rates and average emissions reductions rates for using B20, the city's action will achieve the following pollution reductions (in grams/year): particulate matter - 90,000; carbon monoxide - 900,000; and nitrogen oxides - 2.25 million. Additionally, over 800,000 pounds/year of carbon dioxide emissions will not be contributed to the environment.

"The City of Knoxville is striving to be a good steward of the environment," Mayor Bill Haslam said. "In addition to making the switch to biodiesel, we are purchasing more fuel efficient vehicles, including hybrids; our bus system is now virtually 100 percent powered by alternative fuels; and we continue to look for ways to conserve energy in our facilities."

With Knox County being nonattainment for two of the EPA's health-based standards, the 8-hour ozone standard and the particulate matter 2.5 microns and smaller (PM-2.5) standard, any ground-level action is welcomed locally. For our emissions problems, ground level actions have the greatest potential to improve air quality, and that's where the people are.

Now, two of the four major metropolitan areas in the state of Tennessee, Knoxville and Chattanooga, run their entire diesel fleet on B20.

Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning, renewable, American-made fuel that can be used in any diesel-using 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 is improving air quality in East Tennessee and reducing our nation's dependence on petroleum, including oil sourced from foreign countries.



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