

**SEAF Alternative Fuels Conference**  
**Gatlinburg, TN**  
**Panel on Biodiesel - Obstacles**  
**Dr. Linda A. Smyth - Environmentalist and Biofuels Advocate**

This is going to sound like a 12-Step Meeting: My name is Linda and I have a Biodiesel dependency. I drive to the bad side of town to find a supplier. I pay top dollar for the good stuff for my weekly fix to support my habit. I'm here to give the viewpoint of Joe and Jane Citizen on the obstacles to using alternative fuels.

\* Warranty Worries - I worry about voiding my car's warranty. How come manufacturers don't put the registered fuels prominently in the Owner's Manual? Print what is permissible on the fuel flap.

\* Mechanical Issues - I worry about mechanical issues. Is the fuel going to hurt my car? Will I need an expensive conversion kit? Will I have to replace all the rubber hoses and seals prematurely?

\* Fuel Frets - I can't find fuel! Where's the pump? If I find a supplier willing to delivery several 55-gallon drums, then I have to siphon it myself. And then I'm supposed to have a regulation containment area to store my fuel. And what if the stuff blows up!?!

\* Global Oil Debacle - Joe Citizen has a lingering suspicion that there isn't really an oil shortage at all. It's just a conspiracy by Big Oil to raise prices. We aren't rationing and we aren't waiting in line like we did in the 70's, so we don't really need alternate fuels.

\* Uncle Sam to the Rescue - But if there really is a shortage, Joe & Jane Citizen think the government will save them. Hey, isn't the U.S. sitting on huge reserves in government-controlled land? And won't American ingenuity and technology allow us to extract what we couldn't a decade ago, giving us unlimited fuel sources?

\* Quit Stalling - So how come I can't find a pump? There's resistance from gas station owners to take a perfectly good tank off-line for some off-the-wall fuel that isn't in high demand.

Where is the publicity campaign? Instead of "*Just say No*," how about:

"*Just say Go - Bio - Diesel!*" Maybe you've heard Willie Nelson promote biofuels, but those big non-attainment areas are metropolitan, and those folks don't listen to the country stations.

\* Misinformation Misery - There is so much mis-information out there on poor efficiency, that it's bad for the engine, and reduces power and gas mileage. There's not enough good publicity to promote and endorse alternative fuels.

\* In-cent-ive\$ - Where are the incentives? Tax benefits have not trickled down to the pump, so Joe & Jane Citizen have no financial incentive to switch from traditional fuels.

Those are the obstacles. So how come I switched? I'm an environmentalist. I want to do what's good for the ecosystem.

What about cost concerns? Let this Environmental Science Professor give you a little reality check about the cost of oil. We find it, drill it, suck it out of the ground, ship it across the globe, refine it, distribute it, regulate it, and tax it, and it still costs LESS than a gallon of milk. It's a bargain people! No one pays less for fuel than Americans!

I'm a user because I want to promote Agriculture. Biodiesel promotes ag products because those soybean squeezin's and fatty poultry parts are home grown commodities blended with the diesel.

It's patriotic, because it reduces the dependency on foreign oil.

Biodiesel is cleaner and more environmentally friendly than traditional fuels.

\* BIODZL Tag - And finally, you can get yourself a really cool license plate, as seen here on my 1983 Turbo Diesel Mercedes. It has 239 Thousand miles on it, and I'm planning on making it to a million miles.

So, to you legislators, regulators, distributors and suppliers out there, please do whatever it takes to make biodiesel easy and convenient for me to use, and we'll all breathe a little easier.