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# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Berkeley Goes Biodiesel**

*California City Becomes Largest in Country to use B100 fleet wide*

BERKELEY, Calif. – The City of Berkeley celebrated a milestone today as officials announced the city has transitioned to 100 percent biodiesel (B100) in its diesel vehicles. Berkeley is the first city of its size in the US to switch to pure biodiesel, a fuel made from renewable resources like fat or vegetable oil.

The City held an exhibit and ceremony to celebrate the occasion. The exhibit featured a variety of diesel vehicles from the Departments of Public Works, Parks, Fire, Police, and Health and Human Services.

“The City of Berkeley has a long history of innovation and as a leader in public policy,” said City Manager Weldon Rucker. “The use of biodiesel fuel is yet another example.”

Biodiesel works in any diesel engine with few or no modifications. It has numerous advantages including significantly reducing emissions produced by petroleum-based diesel, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is far safer to transport, store, and use because it is not a hazardous material like petroleum products. Biodiesel also reduces dependence on foreign oil.

Berkeley now uses B100 in more than 180 of the City’s diesel vehicles, representing 90 percent of its fleet of 200 diesel vehicles. The remaining 10 percent are fire department vehicles that will run on B100 when accommodations are made for delivering the fuel to the more remote fire stations throughout the city.

As a leader in environmental initiatives, Berkeley has already used other cleaner fuels including all-electric, electric-gas hybrids, compressed natural gas (CNG), and, formerly, 20 percent biodiesel (B20). The Berkeley Ecology Center, which collects recyclables and switched to B100 more than a year ago, was an early advocate for the city to make the switch.

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“Largely due to our towering success with B100 in the recycling trucks, the Berkeley City Council and six citizen advisory commissions strongly supported the city’s switch,” said Dave Williamson, operations manager for the Ecology Center. “With biodiesel I’m able to switch to something that is not only an alternative fuel but is completely sustainable. For the first time in my 13 year career in recycling, I’ve had people leave their homes to thank me for using biodiesel. It has resonated loudly with the public.”

Biodiesel can be made from any fat or vegetable oil, such as soybean oil. The United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs funded much of the development of the biodiesel industry in the US. The fuel performs similarly to petroleum diesel but significantly reduces emissions like carbon monoxide, particulate matter and unburned hydrocarbons. A joint U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture study showed biodiesel also reduces lifecycle carbon dioxide by 78 percent. Biodiesel is free of sulfates and is the only alternative fuel to have completed the rigorous Health Effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act. Results show its use significantly reduces the threat of cancer and other ailments compared to petroleum diesel.

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*Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting [www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org).*