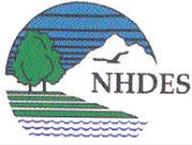


News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 13, 2008

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Granite State Clean Cities Coalition and Oyster River School District Announce Successful Biodiesel Project

Grant Provided to School District to Test the use of Biodiesel in School Buses

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, in conjunction with the Granite State Clean Cities Coalition (GSCCC), announced today that the Oyster River Cooperative School District (ORCSD) has successfully completed a biodiesel demonstration project, using a blend of 20 percent biodiesel (B20) in its fleet of 31 school buses for this school year. The GSCCC provided ORCSD with a \$10,000 grant in 2007 to demonstrate the use of biodiesel in school buses in the state. Through the project, ORCSD was able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the school bus fleet by more than 14 percent for the school year, while maintaining equivalent fuel economy to regular diesel fuel.

Use of biodiesel reduces emissions of diesel particulate, toxic air contaminants, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds from diesel engines. Because biodiesel is domestically produced from renewable sources, primarily soybeans, its use helps to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil. Additionally, ORCSD has reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the school bus fleet by more than 14 percent this school year.

“This project serves to unequivocally demonstrate to other school districts and school transportation providers in the state the viability of using biodiesel blends in school buses,” said Tom Burack, DES Commissioner. “Winter use of biodiesel has been successfully demonstrated in numerous diesel engines in New Hampshire for several years, but this is the first use of biodiesel in school buses. As we expected, Oyster River experienced no problems with use of the fuel. The buses achieved the same fuel economy as with diesel fuel and because biodiesel has excellent solvent properties the engines ran cleaner.”

“Our school district is committed to the use of biodiesel in light of the detrimental effects of diesel exhaust on the development and health of school age children. Second, we wanted to demonstrate that the school district could reduce its use of petroleum with an option that would reduce air emissions. We view it as a perfect fit with all of our other important work with children and we plan to continue to use biodiesel in our school bus fleet,” stated Blaine Cox, Business Administrator for the ORCSD.

The ORCSD school district used B20 for the last two months of the 2006-07 school year and again for the 2007-08 school year. Because of its solvent properties biodiesel tends to clean deposits out of fuel tanks and fuel lines, therefore in the beginning of the project ORCSD scheduled fuel filter replacements for each of the buses. Other than that, no modification of the fueling system or engines were needed to run the biodiesel blend. Use of biodiesel also cleans

carbon deposits from diesel engines, resulting in quieter engine operation and potentially longer life of the engine.

GSCCC Coordinator Barbara Bernstein stated, “Biodiesel is a sustainable fuel that can be produced from non-food crops and waste sources such as used restaurant grease. Even when biodiesel is made from soybean oil more than 80 percent of each soybean is still used for animal feed or food. In the future we anticipate seeing biodiesel produced from algae and other sources that do not require use of agricultural land.”

Led by DES, the GSCCC is a collaborative of over 80 public and private interests from all regions in New Hampshire. Coalition members support the goals of reducing dependence on foreign oil, and improving air quality, through the use of domestically produced, alternative fuels and other fuel reduction strategies.

Funding for the GSCCC is provided by DES, the Governor’s Office of Energy & Planning and the US Department of Energy. For more information visit <http://www.granitestatecleancities.org/>.

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