

# Biodiesel Fact Sheet

- Biodiesel is a clean burning renewable fuel made using natural vegetable oils and fats.
- Biodiesel is a sustainable and renewable source of energy, unlike standard diesel and petrol.
- Biodiesel is not a new concept, Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of the engine, tested the use of peanut oil as fuel at the 1900 World's Fair in Paris.
- The Mayor's Biodiesel Programme only supports biodiesel made from waste products, such as used cooking oil (UCO) from the catering industry and tallow which is a residue from the meat processing trade. These oils might otherwise find their way into already over-used landfill disposal sites, be burnt as waste or illegally poured down drains.
- As it is made from waste fats oils and greases (FOGs) rather than purposely grown crops, it is estimated that vehicles running on biodiesel produce 15 per cent less 'well to wheel' carbon emissions than an ordinary diesel-powered vehicles.
- UCO poured down the drain is a significant issue, with water companies in the UK currently spending £15m per annum clearing UCO and FOG from their sewers and 75 per cent of the 200,000 drain clearance call-outs every year involving UCO.
- When the waste FOGs are collected, they are then processed at special plants to refine them into a useable source of energy. Biodiesel is made through a chemical process which converts oils and fats of natural origin into fatty acid methyl esters (FAME).
- Biodiesel can be used as a replacement for petroleum diesel fuel, or can be blended with petroleum diesel fuel in any proportion.
- Biodiesel is blended at different ratios, and referred to as:
  - 100% biodiesel is referred to as B100
  - 20% biodiesel, 80% petro-diesel is B20
  - 5% biodiesel, 95% petro-diesel is B5
  - 2% biodiesel, 98% petro-diesel is B2
- Blends of B20 biodiesel and lower can be used in diesel equipment with no modifications.
- The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) requires fuel suppliers who supply at least 450,000 litres of fuel a year to show that a percentage of the fuel they supply comes from renewable and sustainable sources. This is why most petro-diesel that comes from the forecourts tends to have up to 7% biodiesel content.
- The UK market consumed 1,517 million litres of biofuels during 2011-2012. UK Department for Transport figures indicate that 22% of biodiesel used in the UK is from UK sources, with

significant imports of biodiesel from the USA, Argentina, Germany, the Netherlands and others. We want to see more biodiesel production here in the UK, and specifically London.

- You can find out where to fill up your own car by checking

<http://www.biodieselfillingstations.co.uk/>