

Biodiesel

is a **domestic, renewable fuel** for diesel engines derived from renewable oils like soybean oil. Biodiesel can be used as a pure fuel, or blended with diesel fuel. It can be used in existing diesel engines with few or no modifications.

Air toxins are the chemicals in the air that are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health effects. Biodiesel reduces air toxins by 90%.

Biodiesel significantly reduces the compounds linked to cancer.

"The need to reduce air pollution in this area can be seen almost daily in hospital and clinic waiting rooms as patients seek care for lung disease."

—Bailus Walker Jr., PhD, MPH
Past ALADC President

Sulfur is what makes most of the stench associated with diesel, and biodiesel contains almost no sulfur. In fact, many people compare the odor of biodiesel to the smell of french fries.

"Our disabled kids are exposed to exhaust when we load and unload them from the bus. They don't struggle to breathe as much with biodiesel."

—Joe Biluck
Medford, NJ school district

 **AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION[®]**
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USDA
Biodiesel Education
Project



Improving Life, One Breath at a Time.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECEIVED AN “F” IN AIR QUALITY

From 2002-2004, the American Lung Association State of The Air Report has issued an “F” grade to the DC metro area for its air quality. It is important for the DC community to address the factors that cause this failing grade. The American Lung Association® of the District of Columbia (ALADC) encourages the use of biodiesel, which has been proven to emit less toxins, particulate matter and other pollutants, thus improving our air quality.

Potential Utilization of biodiesel includes:

- School Buses
- Construction Sites
- Public Transportation
- Generators
- Emergency Medical Services
- Tour Buses

Breathing the smoke from diesel exhaust can trigger an asthma attack. The use of biodiesel reduces particulate matter up to 40 percent.

“Through biodiesel we can make the National Capital a better place to breathe, and enjoy a healthier life.”

—Rolando Andrew
CEO, ALADC



ALADC Camp Happy Lung

“One of the first things our mechanics noticed besides the pleasant odor of biodiesel was that it is much less irritating to their eyes. In fact, even their hands have become softer.”

—John Van de Vaarst
USDA Beltsville, MD



Biodiesel is already in use in the DC Area, including National Arboretum and Rock Creek National Park.

DC RELATED HEALTH CONCERNS

Anyone who has ridden a school bus or stood on the sidewalk as an older diesel vehicle passed by can tell you that they don't like the odor. More importantly, government and health groups agree: Pollution is a threat to your health as well as the environment. The American Lung Association reports that airborne fine particles, like those in diesel exhaust, are linked to greater hospital admissions for respiratory diseases. Children are particularly vulnerable.

D.C. residents suffer from asthma at epidemic proportions. Children who live in the District suffer one of the highest rates of asthma in the nation. Each year, asthma costs the District an estimated \$14 million

in direct medical expenditures for hospitalization, doctor visits, medications and related expenses. Asthma is also the leading cause for school absenteeism nationwide. Because of pollutants related to diesel, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is imposing stricter rules on emissions from diesel trucks and buses, starting in 2007.

THE ANSWER

With biodiesel, America can produce its own cleaner-burning diesel alternative which helps clean up the air as soon as it goes into the fuel tank.

At least 400 fleets nationwide already use biodiesel — including many fleets in the Mid-Atlantic region. Biodiesel is also available at multiple retail locations.

Biodiesel performs comparably to diesel and typically requires no equipment modifications. This fuel can help clean up existing diesel engines and fits well with new clean diesel technology required by the EPA.

If you drive a diesel vehicle, use biodiesel when you can and ask for biodiesel at your filling stations. If you make fueling decisions for a D.C. diesel fleet, tell your supplier you want biodiesel. And if you're a policymaker or elected official, or know someone who is, remember that supporting biodiesel supports a healthier D.C., a cleaner environment, and a more energy-secure America.