



Chippies to the rescue

UK biodiesel production shows exponential increase

([PRWEB](#)) July 20, 2004 -- Biodiesel may not be the sexiest of transport fuels, but it does show the greatest carbon savings achieved as a result of government tax concessions.

Trade organisation Allied Biodiesel Industries (UK) reports that, for the year 2003/2004, a total of over 21M litres were sold, of which 90% was made in the UK from used cooking oils – soon to be banned from re-use in animal feeds.

Greenhouse gas carbon dioxide emission savings are estimated at over 64,000 tonnes – over double that of the long-running Powershift scheme for gas-powered and electric vehicles, and at one sixth of the cost to the public purse.

Biodiesel is mainly to be found as a 5% blend with diesel fuel but many environmental users prefer the more beneficial B20 bioblend, which reduces carcinogenic tailpipe particulate (smoke) and carbon monoxide emissions by up to 17%.

User trials have been carried out all over the UK on 100% biodiesel, the record being held by the long-term trials being carried out by the Northern Ireland Department of Regional Development (DRD) Water Service. After 18 months of intensive urban use and monitoring, neither of the Iveco vans being used for the trial has shown any ill effects. In fact, both are running better than they did on pump fuel!

Biodiesel production has been the fastest growing industry in the UK for many years. Although suffering cut-backs due to the artificial ramping up of feedstock prices, the ban in October will result in a return to profitability and at least a doubled output.

Under consideration by HMG is the introduction of a transport biofuels obligation similar to the renewables obligation for electricity, to comply with the EU target of 2% biofuels by the end of next year. If that happens, many of the huge biodiesel and bioethanol plants currently on the drawing board will come into being.

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