

# SF Task Force Promotes Biodiesel

## Group Seeks to Grow Fuel Usage, Increase Public Access

Biodiesel advocates in cities around the country may want to take note of what's been happening recently in San Francisco, CA. Since last February, a task force chaired by Eric Bowen and Adam Hagen has been meeting with City of San Francisco government officials to improve public access to biodiesel.

The task force has developed and recommended to city departments, including the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Gavin Newsom, a permitting process for biodiesel filling stations and incentives for such stations to be located in the city.

The task force also is urging the San Francisco Unified School District to use biodiesel blends in school buses and is working on a policy to request that biodiesel be used in city fleet contracts.

### Monthly Meetings

The Biodiesel Access Task Force has been meeting monthly at City Hall for the last several months. The meetings are open to the public and schedules, agendas and minutes are available at the San Francisco government Web site at [http://sf.gov.org/site/sfenvironment\\_meeting.asp?id=39021](http://sf.gov.org/site/sfenvironment_meeting.asp?id=39021)

Bowen, president, San Francisco BioFuels Co-op, serves as the task force's chair. Bowen has been actively involved with biofuels policy work at city, state, and federal levels. He and Hagen, a biodiesel advocate and vice chair of the task force, co-authored the legislation (which was sponsored by San Francisco Supervisor Jake McGoldrick) to create the task force.

**Goals.** At a May 18 meeting, the task force discussed its goals. Short-term goals include creating private sector incentives for the distribution and sale of biodiesel. Longer-term, the task force aims to help streamline the city permitting process for co-op style B100 filling stations. It also seeks to identify retail gas stations through the Gas Station Dealers Asso-

ciation and new/used car dealerships and repair outlets through the Auto Dealers Association. A third major goal is to work with educational facilities to create a center where examples of biodiesel could be demonstrated as well as where alternative fuels could be distributed to the public.

At the May meeting, the task force discussed several other goals, one of which is creating incentives for filling station owners to transition one of their diesel tanks to a biodiesel blend tank and incentives for new businesses (e.g., eliminating payroll tax for a certain period of time).

Another goal is to develop educational material for filling station dealers and other interested parties on subjects such as cold flow properties, material compatibility, compliance issues and more.

Biodiesel advocates also might take note of an informational presentation that the Biodiesel Access Task Force created. A link to the PowerPoint presentation is available at [www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/innovative/biodiesel/](http://www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/innovative/biodiesel/).

Also in May, the San Francisco Fire Department announced that it has begun a B20 pilot program.

## Biodiesel Pumps Open Across United States

Biodiesel continues to gain in popularity with more and more fueling stations offering the fuel. Here are some of the stations to recently open:

### California

- USA Grown Fuel started offering biodiesel at its station in Santa Cruz in June. It was the first in the city to offer biodiesel. The company said it plans to make biodiesel available in Monterey, Salinas, Watsonville, and San Jose.

### Indiana

- Hamilton County Co-op's Energy PLUS 24 station in Noblesville started offering a range of biofuels options at the end of June. The station offers Ultra Low Sulfur (ULS) diesel, biodiesel, E85, and B10.

The station also includes a biodiesel blender pump which allows customers to choose their blend of biodiesel, 5%, 10%, or 20%. The biofuels is

land includes three 12,000-gallon tanks. Two hold the ULS and one holds E85.

The station is the state's fourth B20 pump and 35th E85 pump.

### New York

- Mirabito Fuel Group was the second company to offer biodiesel in New York when it opened a station in Oneonta in June. The company hopes to offer biodiesel at additional stations in the state.

- John Ray & Sons opened a biodiesel station in Troy in June. The station dispenses B20.

### Vermont

- Dorr Oil Co. started selling biodiesel at its station in Manchester. The station is selling B5. Additional stations offering biodiesel in Vermont are located in Bridport, Danville, Bel lows Falls, Brattleboro, Winooski, Richmond, St. Johnsbury, and Charlotte.