



WHAT IS BIODIESEL & WHY DO I CARE?

By Brian Terhorst

Photos by Rich Van Every

Biodiesel is a clean burning fuel for diesel engines made from animal and vegetable fats and oils. Unlike petroleum-based diesel, biodiesel is a renewable source of fuel that can be naturally replenished using local resources. Biodiesel is not made from fossil fuels! It is made from renewable resources such as used cooking oil from restaurants which decreases our dependence on foreign oil and contributes to our own economy. Diesel engines can run on this stuff with little or no alterations.

SO, WHY USE IT? Biodiesel is better for the environment because it is made from renewable resources and has lower emissions compared to petroleum diesel. It is less toxic than table salt and biodegrades as fast as sugar. Not to mention the fact that that regular diesel is currently over \$4.50 a gallon! So, screw the big oil companies. I'm not happy financing gold plated toilets for those Saudi dawgs.

You may have noticed our company truck 'Big Blu' tearing around town. The big Ford F-250 has a 7.4 litre turbocharged V-8 that previously got about 12-15 miles to the gallon and belched black smoke at every stop sign & traffic light. What a pig! There was no way we could keep a vehicle like that, and have a clear conscience in this world. We wanted other options! Our choices were, drive the big blue beast off Sunset Cliffs or find an alternative fuel! We chose the later & switched over to BioDiesel in 2008...we never looked back. subsequently we noticed the difference and benefits almost immediately.

First off... the smell. We lost the sickening stench of diesel and gave way to a kinder aroma of...french fries??? Sort of. Second we gained about 4-5 miles to the gallon. The big truck gets about 20 miles to the gallon now. That's nice...hmmm? Another benefit, a smoother running, quieter engine. We received more horsepower without the signature thick black smoke billowing out of the tail pipe like regular diesel vehicles. (A certified mechanic shared with us the fact that the natural lubrication of the product will actually extend the life of the engine. He said we could expect a 500K engine life-span)

Remember we have done no modifications, just regular maintenance on the filters. We often wondered why every diesel engine isn't running on Biofuel? Because Big Brother doesn't want you to know...well, that, and it's not readily available.

Unless you make the Biodiesel yourself, it can be difficult to find unless you know where to look. Yes, I said make it yourself. If you have the time and the space you can actually build a small refinery to process recycled oil yourself. Personally I have neither the time or the space to do so. (or the desire to get down and dirty with collections) So, that left me with the other option, go find someone that distributes it from the pump. There were two such providers in San Diego County that I use on a regular basis, one being Person Fuels on El Cajon Blvd. at the 15. The other is Buster Biofuels in Escondido. For slightly less than regular diesel, at today's prices, I can pour it in to my own tank just like any other fuel.

Most diesel engines can run on B100 (where, 100 represents the percentage of biodiesel mixed with the remaining percentage of petroleum diesel) or any blend of biodiesel without any modifications at all. We use a B20 blend (20% biodiesel/80% diesel) product during the winter when we might find ourselves driving thru higher elevations. Pure biodiesel, or 'B100', can actually gel and clog fuel lines at near freezing temps.. So to be safe we stick with the B20 blend in winter months and have been purchasing from Pearson's Fuel located at 4067 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego, CA 92105. And now there's a new fuel alternative in town by the name of Buster Biofuels.

Buster Halterman takes aim at the competitive business of Alternative Fuels.



Biodiesel Benefits

Maintenance Savings

- Cleaner engine burn due to solvency attribute biodiesel
- Lubricity properties extend engine life

Seamless Integration

- Similar fuel consumption, horsepower, and torque as diesel fuel
- Little or no modification necessary

Safer Handling

- Higher flash point (the point at which fuel ignites)
- Non-toxic
- Biodegradable

Emissions Reduction

- Reduces greenhouse gases (CO2)
- Meets EPA credits
- No sulfur (causes acid rain)
- No aromatics (suspected cancer causing)
- Reduces smog and ozone (Hydrocarbons)
- Reduces health risks (Particulates)

Energy Security

- Renewable resource
- Reduces reliance on foreign oils
- Fuel cost stability
- Improves local economy

Buster Biofuels initiates, establishes and services "green initiatives" for restaurants and companies in San Diego County. They reclaim used cooking oil, then convert it to biodiesel that refuels diesel engines. Restaurants should utilize their free oil collection service which strives to reduce petroleum dependency and carbon emissions. They have the oil recycled in to biodiesel fuel which will soon be available for bulk sale in various blends such as B20, B50 and B99. The higher the "B" number, the more biodiesel in the blend ... which translates in to a friendlier fuel."

'Buster' is the nickname of the founder of Buster Biofuels. Buster Halterman was a top professional skateboarder for over 20 years . He is originally from an 18 acre farm in Wellsville (Wherethehellville?), PA and ironically had a childhood dream of becoming a "gas station man".. His wife was the first one to say "... GO FUEL YOURSELF!"

After being a home-biodiesel enthusiast for a couple years, he founded the company in 2009 then recruited his cousin Jason Biddle as a key partner. Their passion for environmental conservation and vision to create a meaningful company naturally led to the core philosophy and business model that enabled support for the company's mission.

As soon as April this year, the company will deliver biofuel to larger fleets and conscientious companies. Once the plant is operational, it will produce 2 million gallons of biodiesel. In the end, Buster Biofuels sends a message to the petroleum industry and the world through their slogan, "GO FUEL YOURSELF!"

For more information on Buster and his crew or to arrange oil pickup for restaurants log onto [www. busterbiofuels.com](http://www.busterbiofuels.com)

Buster and cousin Jason Biddle want to recycle used cooking oil from your favorite restaurant



Photo: Jorge Galas

Rider: Erica Housseini

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