

Local oil company first to use bio-diesel fuel

Article from the Harlem Valley Times, Amenia NY
www.harlemvalleytimes.com

By: Oren Phillips
09/29/2006

[✉ Email to a friend](#) [📄 Post a Comment](#) [🖨 Printer-friendly](#)

With so much talk in the nation about finding fuels that don't cause as much damage to the environment, Taylor Oil in Dover is actually doing something about it by being the first company in Dutchess County to use bio-diesel fuels.

Bio-diesels are created with regular fuels mixed with natural oils to make it biodegradable and non-toxic. The fuel also gives off fewer emissions when burned, and has a viscosity similar to petroleum.

Taylor first became aware of the availability of bio-diesel fuels thanks to EBM Consulting Services in Millbrook, which works with companies to find environmentally friendly resources for their business.

"We have been using bio-diesel fuels for about six years, and we have been talking with Taylor Oil about it. They were very interested," said Vicki Harkness, president of EBM. "In fact we were the very first recipients of it on Sept. 18. Prior to that the only places we could get the oil was from a different state."

"They had been getting their fuel from New Jersey, so we began talking and I became interested," said Kevin Taylor of the company. "The more I learned about it the more I realized this was something that could really take off."

His hunch was right and Taylor Oil sent out fliers to all of its customers informing them that the 20% bio-fuel mix was available. With this 20% is the bio-fuel and the other 80% is petroleum. Soon the phone calls began coming in with residents wanting to switch to the bio-diesel fuels.

"We have a handful of current customers who are changing to the new product, and lots of people have called very interested in it," said Taylor. "We are excited about it and the positive response we are getting."

Many who work for Taylor Oil are also going to switch to the new fuels and very soon almost all the vehicles will be running on the bio-diesel.

Taylor said there are a number of factors that make switching to the new fuels a good alternative.

"It's cleaner burning and better for the environment. Also there is a 20 cent tax incentive because people get a 20 cent tax credit with every gallon of fuel they purchase," he said.

"The main reason is because it lessens our dependency on foreign oil, and people said they would be willing to pay a little extra if it helps do that."

"We have an organic farm on our property, and if some of this oil spills it is not going to hurt the environment," said Harkness. "It is a renewable energy that is produced by vegetable crops."

Taylor believes other companies will soon follow his company's lead, but while many offer only a 5% bio mix, his is one of the few businesses that provides the 20% mix.

"We are taking the next step," he said. "Our oils meet some of the highest certifications in the industry."

The process of creating bio-fuel is called transesterification. The glycerin is separated from the vegetable oil, leaving a product called methyl esters which is the actual fuel. The glycerin is then sold to other companies where it can be used to create soap and other products.