

Carey's 27 Shell first in area to offer biodiesel

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Frustrated with the rising price of gasoline and diesel fuel, many motorists around the country in recent years began to convert their car engines to burn used cooking oil that they got from restaurants. The fuel was usually free. The only problem was that their car exhaust smelled like fish and chips, refried beans or egg rolls, depending on where they got their fuel.

Now some filling stations have begun to market vegetable-based diesel fuel, which they say is a clean-burning, environmentally friendly alternative to petroleum fuels and costs no more than gasoline.

This food for diesels is now available in Nicholasville, and a manager of Carey's 27 Shell on Lexington Road says the local business is the only one in the area that offers the new fuel.

Biodiesel fuel is not the same as ethanol, nor is it plain vegetable oil. It is a renewable fuel made from recycled vegetable fats and oils, and can be used in any diesel engine with a few minor modifications, such as a larger fuel filter. There are cur-

rently more than 250 biodiesel stations in the U.S. and four in Canada.

Carey's 27 Shell is the first and only gas station in Nicholasville to offer biodiesel fuel. Brad Hornsby, the driver of the tanker, who transported 2,500 gallons of the fuel to the Shell station on Monday, said he also makes deliveries to Winchester, Mount Sterling, Berea and Richmond.

Melissa Spicer, manager of 27 Shell, said the fuel is said to be more efficient than regular diesel fuel, giving an average of two more miles per gallon.

"It's also non-toxic and is good for the environment, and is biodegradable," she said. "We are really excited about being the first in this area to sell it. It's not even in Lexington yet."

Burgess Carey, owner of the station, said he has been reading about and studying the new fuel for about a year, and finally decided to try it.

"It's not a Shell product. It's a

domestically produced agricultural product," he said. "But I'm an independent retailer. Things have been really tough for consumers lately, and if this [biodiesel] sells well, I expect you'll see it popping up all over soon."

The new fuel sells for the same price as regular diesel fuel, at \$2.72 per gallon. Regular diesel

fuel will still be sold, and Carey said that the two diesel pumps will designate which fuel is the biodiesel. He added that he thinks customers will be pleased with the new fuel.

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MELISSA SPICER
27 SHELL MANAGER

"It cleans your engines as it burns," he said.

Consumers can learn more about the fuel at biodiesel.com, where it explains that the fuel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by up to 85 percent compared to gasoline, and reduces smog and improves air quality. The first retail pump was in Ottawa, Canada, which opened on April 22, or Earth Day.



PHOTO BY LISA KING

Brad Hornsby of Nicholasville and Billy Doyle of Maysville look on as Hornsby delivers a load of a new type of vegetable-based diesel fuel to Carey's 27 Shell on Lexington Road.

Biodiesel can be blended with petroleum, and the fuel sold in Ottawa consisted of E20 — a blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum.

Topia Energy Inc., founded in 2001 and with headquarters in Ottawa, is a pioneer in the

biodiesel industry in Canada. Biodiesel is the only fuel to be classified as entirely non-toxic. It biodegrades faster than sugar, is 10 times less toxic than table salt, and produces exhaust that some say smells like popcorn or French fries. Biodiesel can be

used in its pure form (B100), or blended with petroleum diesel at any level.

Carey said the blend he is using is E10, a higher concentration than most retailers use.

"We are trying to go a little farther," he said.