

Biodiesel is Part of the Solution to Decrease America's Dependence on Foreign Oil

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Americans collectively spend \$450,000 a minute to buy foreign oil. U.S. oil imports have increased by 1100 percent since 1960.



United States oil consumption continues to rise.

The U.S. uses approximately 20 million barrels of oil a day (or 840,000,000 gallons), more than half of which is imported. Twenty million barrels is enough oil to fill 1,272 Olympic-size swimming pools each day. By 2025, demand is expected to rise to 26 million barrels a day—about 60 percent of which will be imported. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. oil imports have increased by 1100 percent since 1960 while America's own oil production has declined. America spends \$232 billion each year—nearly \$450,000 every minute—on oil from foreign governments.

Biodiesel can displace imported petroleum.

Biodiesel, a fuel made from renewable resources like soybean oil and other fats and vegetable oils, is the fastest growing alternative fuel in the country. It works in any diesel engine and is usually blended with petroleum diesel. In September 2006, 86 plants churned out biodiesel and created jobs throughout America. At least another 65 plants are under construction. In 2004, the industry sold 25 million gallons of pure biodiesel. By 2005, that number had tripled to 75 million gallons. The National Biodiesel Board estimates at least 150 million gallons of biodiesel will be produced in America this year—but it could go as high as 250 million gallons.

Continued dependence on Middle East oil?

In his State of the Union Address in 2006, President Bush said "America is addicted to oil...from unstable parts of the world." His Advanced Energy Initiative calls for replacing 75% of oil imports from the Middle East by 2025.

Biodiesel is part of the solution. There is an alternative: a way to decrease this country's dependence on foreign oil while boosting the U.S. economy and protecting the environment. American-made fuels, such as biodiesel and ethanol, are gaining momentum in the United States. Government and private diesel-powered fleets, truckers, boaters and motorists are increasingly turning to biodiesel blends, making biodiesel the fastest growing alternative fuel in America.

Given these facts, and the growing uncertainty surrounding U.S. oil imports, biodiesel and other American-made fuels have an important role to play in strengthening our nation's energy security. They can not only help stretch existing petroleum supplies, they can help free the U.S. from the hold of imported oil.



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