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## Company to Create BioDiesel from Cooking Oil

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According to Blue Ridge Biofuels, it can recycle cooking oil to create diesel energy and provide jobs to the people of Asheville. The BioDiesel can be used to heat homes and to power diesel vehicles. The recycling process will also help the Metropolitan Sewerage District as the grease will not clog up the sewer system.

The Biofuels Center in North Carolina has set up and funded a special pilot program in Asheville to place collection bins around the area, including landfills. The Blue Ridge Biofuels business administrator, Melita Kyriakou, said in a statement, "The more oil we collect, the more we can ultimately bring to Blue Ridge Biofuels to convert into clean, green biofuel to sell back to local residents. This will in turn increase production and decrease cost of biofuel within the region while decreasing the amount of tax dollars spent on sewer repairs."

While other biofuel companies rely on soybean oil to manufacture their products, Blue Ridge relies on ordinary vegetable oil collected from restaurants, schools, camps, and is now asking the public to contribute in order to aid the recycling process. While the majority of cooking oil is shipped out of state to be used in animal feed at around \$3.50 a gallon, Blue Ridge Biofuels can now make use of it locally and provide plenty of oil jobs in the process. Blue Ridge is working together with Green Opportunities, to facilitate the collection of the oil from recycling bins.

Aside from being environmentally friendly, the cooking oil biodiesel is also in par with ordinary diesel in terms of price, averaging \$3.70 per gallon, although due to the tax exemption, consumers will save about 5 cents per gallon by opting for the recycled biodiesel. Many companies including those in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the City of Asheville are now using biodiesel in their fleet of trucks and many homeowners are also turning to this form of energy to heat their homes.

The biodiesel that Blue Ridge collects is blended containing some petroleum, and this is done due to the fact that pure biodiesel will begin to turn into a gel at below freezing temperatures, which are experienced in Asheville and surrounding areas.

The founder of Blue Ridge Biofuels, Woodrow Eaton, said, "Phones are steadily ringing now at Blue Ridge Biofuels, where customers are ordering biodiesel for their home heating furnaces. Biodiesel is currently cheaper to use than straight petroleum diesel." Prompted by some concerns from customers, he also added, "There's no smell of french fries to their product. If you're getting any kind of smell from your furnace, that's a problem you need to get fixed."

Around 37 recycling bins will be placed around Asheville and surrounding areas, which will be recognizable by their bright orange labels. There will be blue 55 gallon drums, as well as black 100 and 300 gallon drums. They will be placed at the following places, River District Recycling Center, North Asheville Recycling Center, Buncombe County Landfill, Henderson County Landfill, and Madison County Landfill among others.

Working in the gas and oil industry, also means being employed in green or environmentally conscious companies such as Blue Ridge. To learn more about the kinds of oil and gas jobs you can get, including those that are green, visit Oil Job Finder. Here you will find out what jobs are available, what you can expect to earn, what qualifications you require, and what level of experience you need for each position.

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