

THE BIODIESEL BULLETIN

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State energy initiatives successful in Illinois and Texas

Just before the holidays, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed into law a five-year extension of the state's biodiesel tax exemption. The omnibus jobs bill containing the biodiesel provision extends the incentive's sunset date from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2018. The incentive provides a complete exemption from the state's 6.25% road sales tax for biodiesel blends above B10, a policy that is largely responsible for Illinois' position as the nation's largest domestic marketplace.



Extension of the Illinois biodiesel tax incentive demonstrates the power of America's advanced biofuel as a job and economic driver in the state.

"We applaud Illinois leaders for their vision and long-term support of the state incentive and call on our national leaders to follow suit and extend the biodiesel tax incentive at the federal level," said National Biodiesel Board CEO Joe Jobe.

In addition, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) issued regulatory guidance that removes biodiesel from the U.S. EPA-mandated Texas Low Emission Diesel (TxLED) program. The TCEQ guidance document indicates that biodiesel has no measurable negative impact on air quality, including NOx. Previous to this announcement, biodiesel blends between B6 and B20 required additization to achieve legal fuel status. With this announcement, biodiesel is no longer regulated for NOx, or any other type of emissions, in any U.S. state. A copy of the regulatory guidance document can be found [HERE](#).

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North Carolina launches cooking oil recycling program



Just before the holidays, NBB member company Blue Ridge Biofuels, and several other local partners, launched the Cooking Oil Recycling (COR) Program. Through the pilot project, recycling bins for used cooking oil have been placed across the city of Asheville, NC and neighboring counties. The goal is to keep used cooking oils and grease out of sewers and landfills, and instead use it to produce biodiesel. When poured down the drain, used cooking oil solidifies into thick layers inside drainpipes and is one of the leading causes of costly sewer maintenance.

"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," said Melita Kyriakou, Business Administrator at Blue Ridge Biofuels.

Funded by the Biofuels Center of North Carolina, the COR Program is a collaboration between Blue Ridge Biofuels, the Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSD) of Buncombe County and Green Opportunities. The program will reduce waste, improve air quality, and create clean energy in the region's local community. Organizers hope the Cooking Oil Recycling Program will help achieve the North Carolina Strategic Plan for Biofuels Leadership goal of having 10 percent of liquid fuels sold in NC come from biofuels grown and produced in the state by 2017. For more information, visit: www.cookingoilrecycling.org.

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