

Resolution No.: 16-402
Introduced: December 4, 2007
Adopted: December 11, 2007

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmembers Leventhal, Ervin, Floreen, Berliner, and Elrich

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Working Group to Study the Potential Local Generation of Biodiesel Fuel from Restaurant Grease

Background and Purpose

1. Compared to regular diesel fuel, biodiesel has many environmental benefits in terms of reduced emissions including: greenhouse gas emissions reductions of more than 50%, as well as reductions in carbon monoxide, particulate matter, sulfates, and hydrocarbon and air toxics emissions. Studies regarding nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and biodiesel fuel vary in the results with some studies showing slightly increased NOx emissions and others showing slightly less.
2. The environmental benefits of biodiesel would be even greater when agricultural and transportation impacts are minimized through the local production of biodiesel from used vegetable oil/grease from County restaurants.
3. Montgomery County agency fleets use approximately 5.8 million gallons of diesel fuel per year.
4. There is currently no public or private retail refueling facility in Montgomery County for biodiesel.
5. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission requires that food service establishments having the potential to discharge fats, oils, and grease (FOG) have a discharge permit. As part of this permit, these establishments are required to have FOG abatement systems and follow best management practices in order to minimize the amount of FOG discharge into the sewer system. Waste haulers of this material are also required to have a discharge permit and dispose of this material at approved WSSC facilities.
6. Based on per capita annual estimates of restaurant grease produced, Montgomery County restaurants generate approximately 8.7 million pounds of yellow grease and 12.5 million pounds of trap grease annually. The yellow grease could be used to produce approximately 1.2 million gallons of biodiesel fuel annually or could be blended with regular diesel fuel to produce approximately 6.0 million gallons of B20 biodiesel. The trap grease could also potentially be used to produce biodiesel or other biofuel.

7. Although some restaurants have companies collect their yellow grease and trap grease for uses such as in animal feeds and for biofuel, there is currently no formal voluntary or mandatory countywide restaurant grease collection effort in place in Montgomery County for the reuse of restaurant grease.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

1. A Biodiesel Working Group is hereby established to research and develop a biodiesel initiative for consideration by the County Executive and the County Council.
2. The Working Group must provide a report to the County Council and the County Executive within one year of approval of this resolution.
3. The Working Group will explore and report on the potential for:
 - a. the countywide collection of used vegetable oil and grease from restaurants.
 - b. the creation of capacity for the local processing of this waste product into biodiesel fuel.
 - c. the utilization of this biodiesel fuel in County agency vehicles.
 - d. the provision of extra biodiesel production for sale to the public.
4. The Working Group must be composed of a staff person that the Council invites each of the following to designate:
 - a. The Chief Administrative Officer
 - b. Montgomery County Public Schools
 - c. County Planning Board
 - d. Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
 - e. Staff Director of the County Council
5. The chair of the Working Group must be the member designated by the Staff Director of the County Council. The chair is responsible for the normal duties of a committee chair, including calling meetings, appointing chairs of subcommittees, and other duties as appropriate.
6. In addition to its official members, the Working Group is expected to seek out experts from within the County agencies and from other jurisdictions and levels of government as well as from the private sector to provide advice and information.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council