

**CITY OF SALISBURY  
PRESS CONFERENCE – BIODIESEL  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2009  
MAYOR IRETON'S COMMENTS**

What a great day for the City of Salisbury, the Salisbury Fire Department, and our environment. We join with our partners – Cato Gas & Oil of Salisbury, Pacific Pride Pumps, and the Salisbury Environmental Task Force to celebrate our latest conversion to biodiesel fuel.

Pure biodiesel is a biodegradable, non-toxic, clean-burning fuel made from algae, vegetable oils, animal fats, and recycled restaurant greases. These resources are abundant here in the United States, and renewable. It can be used in compression-ignition (diesel) engines with few or no modifications, and it can also be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to produce a biodiesel blend.

Biodiesel is created through a chemical process called transesterification in which the glycerin is separated from the fat or vegetable oil, leaving behind two products: biodiesel and glycerin, a byproduct used in soaps and other products.

Biodiesel fuel in cars burns much cleaner than petroleum-based diesel, creating about 60% less net carbon dioxide emissions. It is less toxic than table salt and biodegrades as quickly as sugar. Plus, because it is produced in the USA from renewable resources such as soybeans, its use decreases our dependence on foreign oil and contributes to our own economy. According to the National Biodiesel Board biodiesel production will create an estimated 36,102 new jobs in all areas of the economy, and additional tax revenues from production will more than pay for the federal tax income incentives provided to the industry. It will keep, at minimum, \$13.6 billion in America that otherwise would be spent on foreign oil.

So right here in Salisbury we are making a difference in the environment. The use of these biodiesel vehicles, including the 20 vehicles that use biodiesel in the Public Works Department help us address priority 4.A.9 City Vehicle Maintenance, Use, and Alternatives – listed in the Report of the City Environmental Policy Task Force issued this past March. Additionally, the use of these biodiesel vehicles in our city fleet helps us reduce the CO2 emissions over our city by 3.5 metric tons – helping us in our goal of reducing our carbon footprint in Salisbury by 11% by 2011.

So congratulations to the Salisbury Fire Department. Thank you to our partners in making this a great day for progressive government and a great day in our journey of making Salisbury a cleaner place to live.