

CITY STEPS TO SUCCESS



Southern Fried Fuel

The City of Columbia is committed to working for you and is continuously making steps towards success. One of our "Steps To Success" is the launch of the new "Southern Fried Fuel" used cooking oil recycling campaign.

Southern Fried Fuel



The City of Columbia has announced another environmental initiative, Southern Fried Fuel: From Frying Oil to Trash Truck Fuel. In this two-part initiative, the City of Columbia has established a residential used cooking oil recycling drop off program. The cooking oil collected through this program will then be converted in to biofuel and used to power one of the City's garbage trucks.

Citizens are encouraged to drop-off their used cooking oil at the City's Public Works Facility (2910 Colonial Drive) from 9:30 to and 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. For more information call the Solid Waste Department at 545-3800 or the Sustainability Office at 545-2722.

- Residents should pour used oil into a clean, non-breakable, leak-proof container with a tight lid. Cooking oil should be free of water, soapsuds, and food scraps
- After recycling the cooking oil, residents are asked to take back their containers for re-use, recycling or proper disposal.
- All types of cooling oils, fats and grease are accepted, but they cannot be mixed with motor oil.
- Motor oil is not accepted for recycling at the Public Works Facility. For used motor oil recycling sites, residents should call 1-800-SO-USE-IT.

We all know that fats, oils and grease aren't good for our bodies, but they can also cause serious problems for plumbing, the City's sewer system and ultimately, the environment.

When residents improperly dispose of fats, oils and grease down the kitchen sink, it coats the inside of sewer pipes and causes blockages. These blockages cause sewer back ups in homes and businesses. They also create overflows into our streams and creeks. Since October, 2009, 92% of grease related overflows were due to improper grease disposal by residential customers.



Each year, the City of Columbia spends an average of \$1.5 million dollars and 4,500 hours unclogging and cleaning the wastewater collection lines. Unfortunately, these costs are passed on to City customers through sanitary sewer fees. By recycling cooking oil, residents can help keep these problems from happening and keep associated costs down.

The cooking oil recycled through the City will be recycled to make biodiesel and help power the City fleet on a cleaner-burning renewable fuel. Biofuels produce 15 to 75 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fuels. As a cleaner burning fuel, biodiesel is also better for an engine than conventional diesel, providing greater lubrication and leaving fewer particulate deposits behind. Even better, the biodiesel will be produced by Midlands Biofuels, and our dollars will stay in the Midlands economy.

For details visit www.columbiasc.net

FAQs

Can businesses participate along with residents? No, the City of Columbia is not equipped to handle the volume that restaurants produce. However, citizens may contact Midlands Biofuels directly.

What's the estimated cost savings? The cost of the B20 biodiesel through this program will be comparable to the State Contract price that the City is using to buy B5 biodiesel. The largest savings would come from the waste cooking oil not being put in the sewer system which causes costly repairs, or the improved emissions for the truck using biodiesel.

Does the biofuel truck *only* run on biofuel? No, the City uses B5 biodiesel in all of our trucks currently. When the B20 biodiesel made from the cooking oil is not available the City will use the B5. For every gallon of cooking oil collected a gallon of B100 biodiesel is made.

Are other SC or southeastern cities using this program? Pickens County is producing biodiesel for its county vehicles. Visit their web site below:

http://www.pickenssentinel.com/pages/full_story/push?article-County+biodiesel+project+honored+for+innovation+%20&id=3235217-County+biodiesel+project+honored+for+innovation+&instance=home_news_lead

In the southeast there are several projects. The city of Hoover, Alabama is also conducting a recycled oil to biodiesel project. The link below is a draft document detailing the southeastern projects and benefits of biodiesel. http://www.epa.gov/region4/clean_energy/Biodiesel%20Primer%20Final.pdf

What else should the public know about this campaign? Grease and oil causes huge problems in the sewer system, and we're hoping this problem will help prevent some of these problems. Also, biofuel produces far fewer emissions, helping to improve air quality.

*For more information about the City of Columbia,
contact the Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department at 545-3020.*

www.columbiasc.net

