

Biodiesel In Texas Is Dead! Says who?

Just a few short years ago talk of the development and use of biodiesel was common throughout Texas and across the nation. Texas was positioned to lead the nation in biodiesel production. But after millions of dollars and words spent demonizing biofuels by a combination of oil interests, animal feeders, grocers, the anti-government right, and environmentalists, the talk has pretty much disappeared. Granted the target for most of the opposition was (and continues to be) ethanol, but biofuels in general have to an extent been tarred by the same brush. News of production facilities shutting down and others falling off the drawing board was heard across the state .

In recent times, gasoline and diesel refiners have focused their efforts in research and development primarily on ways to convert biomass to bio-oil which is so chemically similar to oil from the ground that it can be refined directly into gasoline, diesel, and other such products thus bypassing biodiesel and ethanol as a fuel. There are even projects to produce ethanol from natural gas – in which case ethanol would be deemed a beneficial fuel that some suggest should be eligible for credits under the nation's Renewable Fuel Standard.

So, it would appear, biodiesel is dead in Texas. But everyone knows that's not the case in the great Midwest where soybeans, oil seeds, and animal fats reign. With the national Renewable Fuel Standard still in effect and use of biodiesel having secured a place in transportation culture – especially in that region, there's still a significant market for the fuel. Surely Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas lead the country in biodiesel production. Biodiesel Magazine provided, in its September 2014 issue, laid out the statistics on the production of biodiesel in North America. To the surprise of many I'm sure, Texas is at the top of the heap. Granted the chart below is ranked by production capacity. It would be useful to see numbers of production, but the ranking is eye-opening none-the-less.

TEXAS BIODIESEL PLANTS

September 2014

Source: Biodiesel Magazine

TOP TEN U.S. STATES/CANADIAN PROVINCES BY TOTAL BIODIESEL PRODUCTION CAPACITY (MMgy, Rounded)

Texas	439
Iowa	313
Missouri	221
Mississippi	201
Illinois	174
Washington	124
Arkansas	110
California	107
Indiana	106
Alberta	87

<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Capacity (MMgy)</u>	<u>Feedstock</u>
<u>Status</u>			
AgriGold Renewable Co-op grease Existing	Douglas, TX	2,000	Sunflower oil, yellow
Brownfield Biodiesel, Inc. Existing	Ralls, TX	2,000	Virgin vegetable oil
Channel Biorefinery & Terminals, LLC Existing	Houston, TX	35,000	Multifeedstock
Dallas County Schools Existing	Dallas, TX	0.025	Waste vegetable oil

Delek Renewables, LLC Existing	Cleburne, TX	12.000	Animal fat
Double Diamond Energy, Inc. Existing	Dimmit, TX	40.000	Soybean oil
Eberle Biodiesel Existing	Liverpool, TX	0.300	Waste vegetable oil
Global Alternative Fuels, LLC Existing	El Paso, TX	18.000	Used cooking oil
Green Earth Fuels of Houston Existing	Houston, TX	90.000	Multifeedstock
GTBE Production sludge Existing	Houston, TX	1.200	Waste glycerin, palm
RBF Port Neches, LLC Existing	Port Neches, TX	180.000	Multifeedstock
REG Houston, LLC Existing	Seabrook, TX	35.000	Low FFA
REG New Boston, LLC Existing	New Boston, TX	15.000	High/Low FFA
Sun Products Corp.-Pasadena Existing	Pasadena, TX	4.000	Palm Oil
Teexas Biotech, Inc. oil Existing	Arlington, TX	3.000	Waste veg. oil, soybean
Texas Green Manufacturing, LLC Existing	Littlefield, TX	<u>1.250</u>	Animal fat
		438.775	