

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

211 West Aspen
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

BIODIESEL COMES TO FLAGSTAFF!

Flagstaff to be first Arizona municipality to convert to cleaner burning diesel fuel

For Immediate Release

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**Contact: Jonathan Koehn, City of Flagstaff Conservation Coordinator
928-779-7621**

ON OCTOBER 7, FLAGSTAFF RESIDENTS WERE ABLE TO BREATHE A LITTLE EASIER...LITERALLY. THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF IS WORKING TO REDUCE ITS IMPACT ON FLAGSTAFF'S AIR QUALITY BY SWITCHING TO A CLEANER BURNING FUEL FOR MANY MUNICIPAL VEHICLES. THIS SWITCH MARKS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE CITY'S CONSERVATION EFFORTS, AS THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF BIODIESEL ARRIVES AT THE CITY'S PUBLIC WORKS YARD.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) RECENTLY RELEASED A COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL REPORT WHICH STATES THAT BREATHING PARTICULATES FROM DIESEL EXHAUST HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE A SIGNIFICANT HUMAN HEALTH HAZARD. THE GOAL OF CITY'S BIODIESEL PROGRAM IS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO DIESEL EXHAUST AND LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF AIR POLLUTION CREATED BY CITY DIESEL VEHICLES. THOSE AT GREATEST RISKS ARE THOSE WHO ARE CONTINUOUSLY EXPOSED TO THE HARMFUL EMISSIONS, SO WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR WHEN THE CITY CONSIDERED SWITCHING TO THE HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVE. BIODIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCE 80 TO 90 PERCENT POTENTIAL CANCER CAUSING COMPOUNDS, AND IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE FUEL TO HAVE COMPLETED THE RIGOROUS HEALTH EFFECTS TESTING REQUIRED BY THE CLEAN AIR ACT. BIODIESEL SATISFIES EPA'S 2006 LOW SULFUR AND CLEANER DIESEL EMISSION REQUIREMENTS. BIODIESEL IS ALSO LOW IN TOXICITY, READILY BIODEGRADABLE AND FREE OF SULFUR.

BIODIESEL CONTAINS NO PETROLEUM, BUT CAN BE BLENDED WITH DIESEL AT ANY LEVEL OR USED IN ITS PURE FORM. FLAGSTAFF WILL USE B20, A MIXTURE OF 20 PERCENT BIODIESEL AND 80 PERCENT DIESEL, IN ITS REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION TRUCKS, STREETS DIVISION TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT, AND FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES.

BIODIESEL IS A CLEANER BURNING ALTERNATIVE FUEL MADE FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES SUCH AS SOYBEAN OIL AND WORKS IN ANY DIESEL ENGINE WITH NO MODIFICATIONS. U.S. DIESEL EQUIPMENT OPERATORS HAVE PROVEN THE BENEFITS OF BIODIESEL BY SUCCESSFULLY USING BIODIESEL AND BIODIESEL BLENDS IN MORE THAN 60 MILLION ROAD MILES, AND ON TUESDAY, FLAGSTAFF JOINS MORE THAN 350 MAJOR FLEETS IN ITS USE. WHILE THERE ARE NUMEROUS AGENCIES IN ARIZONA UTILIZING THE FUEL, FLAGSTAFF WILL BECOME THE FIRST ARIZONA MUNICIPALITY TO CONVERT IT'S ENTIRE DIESEL POWERED FLEET, SOME 170 VEHICLES.

USING RENEWABLE, DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED FUELS LIKE BIODIESEL IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO," SAID CITY CONSERVATION COORDINATOR JONATHAN KOEHN. "THE FACT THAT THE FUEL IS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY IS JUST ONE BENEFIT OF THE FUEL", ACCORDING TO KOEHN, "BY USING BIODIESEL, NOT ONLY IS FLAGSTAFF REDUCING POLLUTION AND CREATING A HEALTHIER WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR EMPLOYEES, IT IS HELPING TO REDUCE THIS COUNTRY'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL, AND SINCE BIODIESEL IS DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED, ITS USE ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO A STIMULATION OF A US FARM ECONOMY."