

Veggie News

PrairieFire BioFuels

So, what happened to fuel?

Wasn't it just two months ago when it looked like fueling was just about to start? What happened to that? Like so many best laid plans, this one ended in disappointment.

The ongoing battle has been with the fire department to get permitting. In July, Mike Clark and I met with all the key players in fueling at our location, and a plan was developed. The fire department said to submit the plan and they "would not object", meaning it would be allowed.

The plan was submitted, and the fire department changed their tone. They feel our location simply does not allow for safe fueling. Without major modifications—building walls, installing a sprinkler system, and ensuring ventilation—we cannot get permitting at our current location. This was obviously a serious blow.

There are many reasons to feel angry and disagree with the fire department's stance. But, that won't get us anywhere. What we needed was a new plan. We have found one.

By collaborating with one of our fuel distributors, Landmark Fuels, we are working towards installing a 24/7 fuel-blending kiosk on Broadway at the Cenex station.

This solution will solve all the issues we have with fueling at our current location—including moving fueling outside Madison's border and into Monona's, who will be more willing to work with us.

Proposals have been submitted, and I am working to bring it to reality as soon as possible. However, this puts the opening date for fueling in the spring due to the fact that it takes twelve weeks to build the fueling kiosk.

We want the next fueling situation to be one with long-standing power that meets the needs of all of our members by being easily available and open all hours. We think we have a solution that can do just that.

We need something from our members, however. The power of this plan rests on us being able to say we have a large, dedicated membership that is going to buy fuel. We need you—now more than ever—to show your support and renew your memberships. Please call or stop in today and renew if you are currently expired, and we will continue working to bring fueling back after this long absence.

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Hello New Board

Thank you to all who attended the annual membership meeting! A fun time was had by all with great conversation, comfortable surroundings, and delicious food and beverage.

I have the pleasure of welcoming three new board members and thanking three previous members. Welcome Jamie Derr, Taavi McMahan, and Paul

Morschauer. Jamie and Taavi were founding members, and Paul is a long-term collaborator with the coop, as an instructor at MATC. Welcome all three!

A giant thank you goes out to our three previous members of the board: Barb Pennington, Adam Briska, and Angela Dupont. Thank you for all your hard work!

Ed Foundation Seeks Volunteers! By Carolann Puster

Hello Alternative Fuel Enthusiasts!
The Education Foundation is seeking volunteers to join the team.

The end of our first year as a non-profit is approaching, and much of the red tape involved with forming such an entity is behind us. This year will be all about community outreach, education, and broadening our perspective on the types of non-petroleum-based fuels we might use in the future.

Are you excited about the potential of plug-in hybrids? Are you passionate about home-grown energy? Do you have a couple hours a month to share in the interest of telling other people about clean, renewable fuels? Or, maybe you know someone else who fits the bill - please forward this on!

We will have board elections in November. All seats are up for election annually, so now is your chance to jump in!

Don't want to be an officer? That's fine too! We need volunteers throughout the year to plan and attend events, write grants, develop and share educational materials, research, help with administrative tasks, you name it.

Get involved!
Check out our website:
www.pfbfef.org
Email for more details:
info@pfbfef.org

Winter is Coming... By Luke Matthews, PFBF Lead Mechanic

Once again it is the time of the year to think about cold weather diesel operation. As the temperatures fall, several of our diesel's systems become more important in starting the engine: the charging system, the battery, the starter, and engine pre-heating. With cold weather also comes slippery road conditions. Even brake performance and appropriate tire tread are critical for safe operation.

PrairieFire can help you with all of these aspects of your vehicle. Schedule a winterization of your automobile soon!

In the winterization we will check all of the important systems in your vehicle including, but not limited to: brakes, suspension, tires, steering, battery, charging, starting, glow, exhaust, heater, wipers, and lights.

This would normally cost a PFBF Member \$75 plus tax. We are offering the service for \$65 plus tax.

In the event that you require new pre-heating hardware, we will provide these parts at our minimum mark-up of 10%. This includes glow plugs, glow control relays, batteries, and electric or diesel-fired block-heaters.

Where Has Your Diesel Been?

We are starting a new segment in the newsletter! We want to see where your diesel has been!

Send in pictures of your car in interesting places, preferably touting a PrairieFire BioFuels bumper sticker, and every month we will choose one winner. Their car will be displayed in the newsletter, and the winner will receive a prize!

Start sending your pictures now!

**BIODIESEL
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www.PrairieFireBioFuels.org 608.441.5454

**VEGGIE OIL
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Introducing... By Kurt Reinhold

Hello Fellow PFBF Members,

My name is Kurt Reinhold. I am starting my second year on the Board of Directors this month. In case you were wondering more about me, I've been asked to expand on my biography here. I've been a member of the cooperative since Summer 2007, when I started shopping for a diesel so I could burn biodiesel. At the time, I was very upset at how the ethanol industry was dominating the biofuels market while providing a product that did not give a very good return on the petroleum inputs required to make it. As soon as I could afford it, I had Luke install a single-tank Elsbett kit on my 2000 Jetta TDI. My whole passion for using biofuels is to displace as much non-renewable (fossil fuel) transportation fuel as I possibly could. Waste Vegetable Oil is (in my opinion) the greenest, cleanest liquid transportation fuel on the planet! (Especially when it comes to one's carbon footprint.) Then, in October of 2008, I joined the first board of directors for the education and outreach arm of the co-op, now its own entity, entitled PrairieFire BioFuels Education Foundation. Visit us at www.pfbfef.org for more information on how you can get involved in next year's educational events!

More about me: I am married to the wonderful and beautiful Kristine Beck. We have 4 cats and 1 dog (all rescues), and we are currently waiting for an adoption referral from China's international adoption agency (within 12-14 months from now). We live on the near west side of Madison (near Hilldale) on the fringe of Lucia Crest Park. I work as a physical therapist and manager for an industrial rehabilitation and risk management company. Kristine and I are also big advocates for Solar Power and have a large array on our roof that provides about 20% more electricity in one year than we use in our house. I am working on forming a Community Solar business to serve small solar investors who want to buy and install solar equipment on their property but are prevented from doing so because of poor sun exposure or other limiting factors. We currently drive a 2004 Toyota Prius which we outfitted with an after-market kit to allow it to be charged on household current. This is known as a Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle, or PHEV for short. We average about 75 mpg when we supplement gasoline with our solar power. When driving around town, we use only a tiny amount of gasoline (especially in the summer) and average well over 100 mpg! Email me at solarconnections@gmail.com if you would like to take it for a test-drive.

In another life I was a high school science teacher (chemistry, physical science, and biology). In yet another life I was a cab driver for Union Cab of Madison Cooperative (1988-1992). My hobbies are sharing information on RE topics, Facebook Scrabble, downhill skiing, reading mysteries (currently working through the Inspector Rebus series by Ian Rankin), going to choral concerts (to listen to Kristine sing), and napping. You may follow me on Twitter @Soldude. I mainly post links to good stories about renewable energy, climate change legislation, healthcare reform, among other less exciting topics. I urge all of you to try to cut your carbon emissions by 10% each year and to help the less fortunate people in your community with practical or financial assistance. Remember, even the smallest good deed is better than the biggest good intention. Peace out!

PrairieFire BioFuels Coop &
Education Foundation

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PFBF is a member-owned cooperative creating access and building infrastructure to support viable, sustainable alternative fuels sources and usage.

PFBFEF's mission is to encourage environmental stewardship and empower the public with education about the availability and potential of non-petroleum-based fuels.

