

Veggie News

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PrairieFire BioFuels (608)441-5454
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Welcome, Angela!

PrairieFire is honored and excited to bring into the family a new, second mechanic—Angela Burgette-Noble. She comes to us from Seattle, WA (previously home to a couple of other key PFBF members, I believe).

Previously from this area, Angela is moving back to be closer to family and to marry another member of the coop—John Wilie.

Her focus will be on VWs

and general maintenance work. The two mechanic model will allow our Lead Mechanic, Luke, to focus on Elsbett and other veggie oil installations while Angela focuses on keeping the fleet running.

She comes bearing seven years experience in the field, a degree in auto repair, and prior ASE certifications.

Angela is passionate about alternative fuels, and she will perfectly fit

into the PrairieFire family. She comes well-regarded by her peers in WA as an astute mechanic and warm person.

We are excited by the future prospects this growth opens up. Stop in some time this week, meet Angela, and welcome her into our coop!

Shop Specials!

Now that we have a second mechanic, PrairieFire would like to show off her skills!

That is why we are running two specials right now:

Schedule any maintenance repair with Angela and receive **15% off your bill.**

Schedule a **front end suspension** job on a **VW** and receive a **reduced shop rate of \$50 /hr.**



Biofuel improvement wins students \$20,000

A project that increases the efficiency of biofuels was declared Wednesday the winner of the UW Nelson Institute's Climate Leadership Challenge, which awarded \$50,000 in prizes to student-developed projects.

Modeled on the X-Games, the CLC solicited products that promote climate change solutions at the state, national and international level.

"Cellulosic Biofuels" was declared the overall winner out of the 25 projects submitted by early April, earning its development team a prize of \$20,000.

"It was great," said UW senior and project co-developer Jack Ho on winning. "We felt that we had a really great idea and concept, but at the same time all of the finalists had really great ideas and all of them deserved really good recognition. We were definitely pleasantly surprised."

The project involves using a genetically engineered enzyme to increase the energy efficiency of some biofuels.

Overall he said the competition was a valuable way to connect

with people in the field of climate change.

"The biggest thing was how many people were excited about what we were doing," Ho said. "We're definitely really excited about it because it's something that can definitely make a difference in the world, and the fact so many people are excited about it is definitely a positive thing."

By: Signe Brewster

Reprinted from the Badger Herald

Obama trying to give biofuels a bump

Currently, the United States isn't producing enough biofuels to satisfy the requirements set out by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and President Obama's administration is planning to do something about it. On Tuesday, Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced a new \$786.5 million program to speed development and commercialization of biofuels in America.

Of the \$786.5 million fund, which will be drawn from President Obama's American Recovery and

Reinvestment Act, \$480 million will be used to build pilot- and demonstration-scale biofuel refineries, \$176.5 million will be used to build commercial biofuel refineries and \$130 million will fund various biofuel research programs.

Further, a new Biofuels Interagency Working Group was formed on Tuesday to promote biofuel use in America and reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil. The panel consists of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and Energy

Secretary Steven Chu.

President Obama also announced that the U.S. EPA would launch a new study on the effect corn-based ethanol has on overall greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, almost 100% of all ethanol used in the United States is derived from corn, which is a significantly less desirable way to create ethanol than new [cellulosic technologies](#).

By: David Shepardson

Reprinted from Detroit News

<http://www.detnews.com/>

Letter from the Non-Profit Board President

Dear PFBF Members,

Thanks so much to those of you who have supported our fledgling Education Foundation!

Our film screening and Diesel birthday party were fun opportunities to meet fellow Coop members, spread the word about biofuels, and raise funds to further community education.

For those of you who do not know, PrairieFire Biofuels Education Foundation was formed last autumn by several Coop members. We are

now a 501c3 certified non-profit.

Our mission is to encourage environmental stewardship and educate the public about the availability and potential of non-petroleum based fuels.

PFBFEF is taking over the education and outreach activities that the Coop has organized in recent years.

I encourage you to visit our website: www.pfbfef.org.

We welcome suggestions and hope you will be inspired to volunteer your

time and knowledge as we continue to get this organization off the ground.

Kind regards,
Carolann Puster
President, Board of Directors,



MREA Is Coming Up!

Hello Members. As many of you know, Midwest Renewal Energy Association is hosting their annual energy fair next month. The dates are June 19 - 21, in Custer WI.

This is an opportunity for those of you planning to attend to volunteer a few hours in the name of PrairieFire Biofuels Education Foundation.

As in years past, one of our members is displaying a car in the Clean Energy Car Show. We are able to

pass out literature about PFBF, the Education Foundation, and biofuels in general at the car while talking to folks.

If you are planning to attend MREA's fair this year, please consider hanging out by the car for a period of time and spreading the good word.

Please contact me [Carolann Puster] or Sara W if you are able to contribute some of your time and enthusiasm: info@pfbfef.org thanks!

Editor's Note: For those of you unfamiliar, MREA is a very large gathering of parties interested in renewable energies. This energy fair draws crowds from all over the country. There were an estimated 22,500 attendees last year!

For more details, visit their website at:

<http://www.the-mrea.org/>

Click on Energy Fair link on the left.

"The Energy Fair

The Nation's Premier Energy Education Event"



Expanding to PHEV

PFBF is looking into the possibility of adding a new service and revenue stream to our shop menu.

We have members who are interested in including electric vehicles (in this case, Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles, or PHEV for short) into our alternative fueling mission.

The prospect we are investigating involves adding a booster-battery kit to a Toyota Prius in order to allow for a greater range of gasoline-free driving.

Any 2004-2009 Prius can be modified with this kit. PFBF would receive

the order from the manufacturer, arrange installation with the Prius-owner, and collect a flat-rate fee for this service.

Stay tuned for updates in the next newsletter or two.

Report from Kurt Reinhold, board member.

Try B100? Not in your new diesel engine

Manufacturers of diesel engines make it clear that small amounts of biodiesel are usually fine (most say B5, or diesel with five percent biodiesel mixed in, is OK), but they won't make any promises about higher concentrations.

[Popular Mechanics](#) has a good article that explains

that these companies aren't just trying to make life difficult for plant-fuel lovers: there's technology in new diesel cars that doesn't play nice with biodiesel.

The EPA and the California Air Resources Board implemented new rules that required

automakers to design cleaner diesel engines which resulted in diesel engine mods that don't like biodiesel

[Popular Mechanics](#) has all the details and it's well worth reading.

Reprinted from [AutoblogGreen](#)

What's Up with Fueling (pt. 2)?

Oh, it's warm out, spring is here, and yet there is still no biodiesel or veggie oil.

Believe me; we are all feeling the same frustration! It is not for lack of trying!

Mike Clark has drafted and proposed to the city at least three versions of fueling, but none have passed inspection.

What is the holdup? We are too close to the property line, we are too close to our neighbors, we don't have

fireproof walls. These are some of the hang-ups we have faced.

But, fear not! Proposal number four is in the works! Mike is proposing a new drawing, which would require outside fueling from the front of the building. This is our best shot.

Hopefully, we will have some answer by the end of the week, and hopefully we can have fueling up and running

by the end of the month.

That is our new goal—June 1st.

I know we all want to smell the citrus burn of biodiesel or the French fry beckons of veggie oil. It will happen!

We appreciate your patience and loyalty!

"We all want to smell the citrus burn of biodiesel or the French fry beckons of veggie oil."

Who IS Mike Clark? →→→

Everyone is familiar with the name, but does anyone know the extent of energy this man has put into the coop?

In my time as a board member, Mike has donated innumerable hours and energy to projects for the coop. He has attended most board meetings in the past two years to offer his support and suggestions.

Mike has been instrumental in getting fundamental operations going. He has been the contact person for all city business. He has met with the fire chief numerous times to get fueling approval. He has submitted, and gotten

approval, on our signage—which should be up in less than a week.

Mike filed all the papers with the city for occupancy of our location. He set up installation and removal of fuel tanks.

Mike is currently working on the fourth pitch to the city for fueling at our current location.

Mike has explored various ideas for 24/7 fueling—oftentimes hitting a dead end and then looking for the next opportunity.

He was a steering committee member and board president. He also

has a real job, working for the UW.

Mike is a man of many talents, and he has used those to forward the coop. We are better because of him. Mike has a passion for biofuels, and he pursues it diligently.

Asked if he had anything he wanted members to know about him, Mike had the following to say: "I'm happy to see a new member volunteer in the office and many cars in the shop every time I stop by the PFBF Stoughton Road Headquarters."

Thank you, Mike!



The "Illustrious" Mike Clark

How Can I Help? Get Involved!

[There are many ways to contribute to PrairieFire Biofuels Education Foundation](#)

-Are you tech-savvy? Volunteer to help Sara develop our website.

-Do you love to Google? Spend some time researching appropriate links and other references for the website.

-Are you a people person? Volunteer to hang out at MREA's car show in June. Hand out literature and spread the good word about biofuels.

-Do you love to plan parties? Join the crew in helping to plan future fundraisers and educational events.

-Have you an eye for design? We'll need help in updating existing materials, and designing new ones.

-Know any classes or groups that would be interested in learning about biofuels? Hook us up! Spread the word and help us make connections in the community.

-Don't have time, but think

our work is important? Donate money! Donations are tax deductible. Drop off or mail a check to the Coop, made out to PFBFEF. Make sure to include your info so we can send a receipt (email is the best!)

"Donations to the Education Foundation are tax-deductible!"

**PrairieFire BioFuels
&
PrairieFire BioFuels
Education Foundation**

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E-MAIL:
pfbfinfo@gmail.com
Or
info@pfbfef.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.pfbf.org
Or
www.pfbfef.org/

Upcoming Events

There are a few events coming up soon:

First, a Grand Reopening Party is in the works! The party will be soon, after fueling is restored and Angela is settled into her new position with the coop. Stay tuned for more soon!

Second—MREA!

This will take place June 19-21. The Education Foundation will be there with a veggie car on display, ready to talk about the future of non-petroleum based fuels.

Help is still needed, so please consider volunteering!

Finally, SHOP SPECIALS!

Come in and experience two mechanics in action at PFBF! Fuel is not up and running yet, but the shop is. We are now able to offer the same high-quality work you have come to expect in an even quicker time! See above for specific specials.

Where is PrairieFire located at again? Signage!

After a long process, we coop will FINALLY have signage in about a week! No more wandering around the S. Stoughton Frontage Rd looking for us!

No more seeing Roman

Auto Body on the awning! No more temporary street signs that have faded to only show the address!

Special thanks must go to Sara W. for developing the art layout and to Mike Clark for his diligent work

to get city approval on the signs.

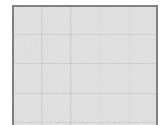
Stop in soon to see the final product!

About Our Organization...

PFBF is a member-owned cooperative creating access and building infrastructure to support vegetable oil-based fuels sources and usage.

PRAIRIEFIRE BIOFUELS

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