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news

March 31, 2005

Lane Clean Diesel Project

By Andy Peterson

EUGENE -What one issue can the City of Eugene, the 4J School District, and the Lane Transit District all agree on? It's called the Lane Clean Diesel Project, and it's bringing together public and private businesses with one common goal: protecting the air we breathe."

The LTD has always been committed to running buses that are environmentally-friendly as they can be," says Andy Vobora of the Lane Transit District.



The newest way that the LTD is affirming that commitment is with its purchase of 5 new buses that use ultra-low sulfur diesel, which produces 97% less pollution than regular diesel.

The problem is, ultra-low sulfur diesel is harder to get, and more expensive, than other types of fuel.

The LTD is just one of the many local businesses that rely on diesel fuel. Now they are joining with a group of other businesses in order to make low-emission diesel fuel a more viable option.

The Lane Clean Diesel Project is a group of 33 businesses, including the LTD and Rexius Sustainable Solutions, that have joined together to purchase ultra-low diesel fuel.

The fuel will be used in "school buses, city street sweepers, lawn mowers, diesel pickups, any diesel-powered vehicle, big, small," according to Scott Dybvad of Good Company, a Eugene consultant firm that works with businesses to help them manage their environmental performance.

Organizers say that getting these businesses together means reducing transportation costs and making lower-emission diesel easier to get, and lower emissions mean cleaner air around us.

"That translates into reduced health care costs for the community," Dybvad explains, "reduced cases of asthma, and a reduction in sick days in the workplace."

And that's something we can all get together on.

The members of the Lane Clean Diesel Project expect to use more than a million gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel and biodiesel each year.

They'll be holding what they're calling a "Celebration of Cooperation" Monday at 2:30pm. The event will be held at Rexius Sustainable Solutions, which is located at 1250 Bailey Hill Road in West Eugene.

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Send comments and questions to: kval13news@kval.com

KVAL-TV

4575 Blanton Road
Eugene, OR 97405
P.O. Box 1313
Eugene, OR 97440
Tel 541-342-4961
Fax 541-342-2635

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