

New Center Turns Cooking Oil Into Biodiesel Fuel

by Mike Hooker

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LOVELAND, Colo. (CBS4) — The city of Loveland is helping people recycle cooking oil into diesel fuel for cars, trucks and tractors. The city boasts it is the first place in Colorado where residents can drop off cooking oil they would otherwise throw away.

Loveland's new cooking oil drop-off solves an oil dilemma for residents.

"We found that people have been pouring it down the drain because they didn't know what else to do with it," said Bruce Philbrick with the City of Loveland. "I think we're the first one in Colorado to do this in conjunction with a drop-off center."

The center was implemented to keep the oil out of the landfill where it can carry pollution into the ground water. The cooking oil will also be kept out of Loveland's sewer pipes and wastewater treatment plant.

"As the agitation of the water occurs it forms these little balls of grease which have to be physically removed," said Bill Thomas with Loveland Wastewater Department.

Every day, balls of grease and oil collect on the surface. Workers remove the balls so they don't clog equipment and some of the cooking oil and grease also clogs sewer pipes.

The recycled cooking oil ends up at the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Enterprises. Cooking oil from hundreds of restaurants and now Loveland's recycling center go into giant tanks. It then gets filtered and cleaned for use in bio-diesel fuel.

LINK TO TV BROADCAST ON THE STORY:

<http://www.cbs4denver.com/video/?id=22870@kcnc.dayport.com>

Old cooking oil recycled to power cars and trucks.

"It provides a feed stock for a fuel that is very good for the environment and also helps achieve energy independence which we think is a good thing," said De Wayne Perry from Rocky Mtn Sustainable Enterprises.

Recycling leaders said with more people using deep fat fryers for their holiday turkeys, the drop-off center may come in really handy in the next few months.

Instead of dumping all that oil out, the center says to let it cool, put it in a container and take it to them to use for bio-diesel.

Because of the environmental problems caused by cooking oil and grease, restaurants are required to have a plan for getting rid of the huge amounts of oil and grease they often produce.

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