



**THE BIODIESEL BULLETIN**  
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**Congress Returns in 2004 with Full Agenda**

Congress will return in late January to unfinished business including the Energy Bill. Senate leadership has been quietly working to gain the necessary votes to pass the comprehensive package that fell short of needed support in November 2003. While a number of Senators have been targeted for changing their position on the Energy Bill, no one has publicly committed to do so. The biodiesel industry is working closely with Senate leadership and the White House to gain the needed support of the bill. If the votes are secured, the vote could come in late January. If the 60 votes needed to finalize the package are not assured, the deliberations will continue.

"Those who want to see biodiesel use expanded still have time to thank our congressional supporters and ask for their continued support," said American Soybean Association (ASA) President and NBB Director Ron Heck.

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**NBB Gives Scholarships, Prizes for Conference**



Palm Springs, California

The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) has announced two separate contests in connection with the First Annual Biodiesel Conference & Expo. To foster attendance among students and individual biodiesel activists, NBB is giving away 15 scholarships. The winning applications will save up to \$525 and will be able to attend the conference for the price of \$100. As a separate contest, NBB will give away prizes to the top three people who recruit the most registrants. Visit [www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org) for more.

Early bird registration ends January 7, so sign up soon! Consumers, fuel suppliers, government leaders and others with an interest in biodiesel won't want to miss this first annual National Biodiesel Conference & Expo, to take place in Palm Springs, Calif. Feb. 1 – 4. NBB created this conference to meet the educational needs of all those interested in the many aspects of biodiesel, and has added a full exhibit hall to give attendees the opportunity to learn about the latest products, services and advances in the field. Conference

sessions will include a variety of technical, marketing, regulatory and user topics, including: state legislative case studies, quality assurance, biodiesel on the farm, a look at the strong European biodiesel industry, practical cold weather blending and storage, new markets, biodiesel as heating oil, and a forum for small biodiesel producers to discuss quality and other issues as they pertain to small-scale production.

In addition to the rich educational content of the meeting, NBB is hosting a number of networking and social events, including a tour of the nearby Imperial Western Products biodiesel plant, a Golf Tournament at one of Palm Springs' finest courses, a Conference Kick-Off Super Bowl Party and evening receptions and informal gatherings. Those able to arrive early can take part in some valuable pre-conference training sessions on Saturday afternoon (January 31) and Sunday morning (February 1).

Conference and pre-conference registration forms are available at [www.biodiesel.org/conference](http://www.biodiesel.org/conference)

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### New Biodiesel Stations Open in New England

New Hampshire's first biodiesel pump has opened to the public. [World Energy Alternatives](#) will supply the biodiesel to Fleming's Shell Convenience Store, located at 99B Route 9 in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire. Fleming's will sell B20, or a 20% blend of biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel.

"For the end user, biodiesel has more than just emissions benefits, including the fact that it has higher lubricity than standard petroleum diesel," said Rick Fleming, president of Fleming Oil. "These biodiesel benefits can be a product differentiator for retailers, helping to drive more business through the door."

Maine also welcomed a new pump offering blended biodiesel to the public in December. The B20 pump is located at frontier village market on rt. 3 in South China, Maine. The biodiesel will be provided by Frontier Energy, the only full-service supplier of 100% and blended biofuels and biolubricants in the state, according to the company. Vice President Joel Glatz says biodiesel is poised to become an integral part of Maine's transportation system.

"We are proud and excited to be pioneering the introduction of renewable energy in the state," he said. "This step will go a long way to help clean up the environment, as well as reduce the dependence on foreign oil and support local farmers."

Click [here](#) for a map of public pumps carrying biodiesel.

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### Columbia, Mo. Turns to B20

About 300 vehicles owned by the City of Columbia in central Missouri officially switched to B20 in December. The blend will fuel city buses, fire trucks, trash trucks and other heavy duty equipment.

"I am proud of Columbia for taking a leadership role in connection with biodiesel," Mayor Darwin Hindman said in a ceremony at the Public Works Operations Center. "If more cities take these significant steps, it is going to make a difference on a national level."



Sen. Jim Talent (R-MO) and Darwin Hindman, mayor of Columbia, fill up with B20.

U.S. Sen. Jim Talent (R-MO), co-chairman of the Senate Biofuels Caucus, praised the vision of Columbia leaders. "Biodiesel is vital to value-added agriculture," Talent said. "It is great to see Columbia again at the forefront of such an important thing."

Columbia, which is located 35 miles away from National Biodiesel Board headquarters in Jefferson City, has contracted with MFA Oil Co. to supply its biodiesel. The vehicles will consume more than 400,000 gallons of B20 each year.

City Manager Ray Beck said that over the years the city has invested funds to keep its leadership role as an environmentally friendly city. Biodiesel is the least cost option among alternative fuels for heavy duty applications because its use does not require investment in expensive new vehicles.

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### Upcoming Events

- 2004 National Biodiesel Conference & Expo, Feb. 1 – 4, Palm Springs, CA

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