

# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 19, 2001

### **California hospital uses soy-based fuel to face energy crisis**

*Medical center fueled by 100 percent biodiesel; NOx and other emissions reduced*

LONG BEACH, Ca. – Fueled by concern over volatile energy costs and rolling blackouts in California, officials from St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach today announced the hospital has switched to biodiesel to run on-site generators and boilers.

Biodiesel is a clean-burning fuel that can be made from any fat or oil, such as soybean oil. It can be used in any diesel engine with few or no modifications to the engine necessary. Although biodiesel is used mostly as a motor fuel for trucks and buses, it can be used in boilers and generators as well. About 80 major fleets, including transit authorities, school districts, government fleets and national parks use biodiesel. It performs comparably to diesel, with similar cetane and BTU content.

“We are very excited about the advantages this new fuel provides in responding to our statewide energy crisis,” said Tomi Hadfield, President of St. Mary Medical Center. “This is very promising for our colleagues facing these same challenges.”

St. Mary expects a daily cost savings of \$350 per day over an average natural gas price of \$14.28 per decatherm. Moreover, the hospital can stay up and running during blackouts without emitting high levels of pollution.

"The biodiesel that our company is supplying to the hospital is mixed with an additive that significantly lowers NOx emissions," said Gene Gebolys, president of World Energy ([www.worldenergy.net](http://www.worldenergy.net)). "The emissions results have been certified by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, showing that it meets strict NOx requirements."

Biodiesel also significantly reduces particulate matter, carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons and sulfate emissions compared to petroleum diesel. A joint study by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Agriculture shows biodiesel reduces life cycle carbon dioxide by 78 percent. It is the only alternative fuel to have passed the rigorous Health Effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act. The results, submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in 2000, show biodiesel is non-toxic, biodegradable and reduces air toxics by 90 percent.