



Hudson Valley Biodiesel Co-op Fueling Ourselves

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in Golden, Colorado

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Brief History

- September 2004 -Some local environmental activists in the New Paltz area of New York were interested in learning more about biodiesel
- Meetings were held where space could be found and moved around
- Meeting space was offered at the Sustainable Living Resource Center (SLRC) in Cottekill
- The meetings were attended by a core group of regulars and many interested people filtered through.
- By Winter, 2004, it was decided to build a small processor. SLRC offered space on their property to build one and their woodshed was chosen.
- Plans evolved to begin to build the first processor in March, 2005, when the weather would warm.
- As March approached parts were purchased and a date was set to build the processor
- By April, the processor was built

First Processor



2005 Processor – Solar Power



Co-op Organization

Recognizing the questionable legal issues of brewing and using biodiesel, it was decided that the co-op would not formally incorporate as this would create a legal entity.

The only formal position was treasurer, but funds were kept in a private account.

The Hudson Valley Biodiesel Co-op's mission statement is to “escalate the advancement of biodiesel technology in the Hudson Valley region by providing a focal-point and interactive forum for education and communication.”

Membership

- Lifetime membership dues are \$50
- Membership entitles one to use brewed biodiesel at a cost of \$2/gallon, but one must work at the co-op
- Jobs and levels of involvement vary (buying supplies, collecting oil, brewing, washing, etc.)
- There is no formal measure of how much work a member performs; the structure is very loose.
- When a member takes biodiesel, they indicate it on a white board. The treasurer collects the moneys when appropriate

First Year - 2005

- The processor was built in April
- There were about 10 core members and 20 more who came and went.
- Brewed approximately 1,000 gallons
- Attended many fairs and events to spread the word
- Held some public workshops

As Winter approached - 2005

- Since we were processing outdoors, it began to get too cold in October.
- Decided to move the processor to one member's chicken coop.
- Members would continue processing over the winter

Winter Processing

- Turned out the host of the processor was not accommodating and the attitude and politics stopped people from being involved
- The co-op ceased to function

Spring 2006

- There was a push to keep the co-op running so over the winter workshops were held and meetings continued
- New members joined and some core members remained.
- A new processor was built on April 1st, 2006

Winter 2006 approaches

- Having learned from the previous year, members decided not to move the processor indoors but to build a shed to house it so that brewing could continue at the same location.
- Members kicked in money, some materials were donated, and a shed was built.
- An 85 gallon water heater was found to increase capacity

Shed building



New Processor

85 gallon processor

2 of four wash tanks – 2 per batch

Shed contains 275 gallon tote for wash water and 330 gallon tote for WVO



WVO Collection

- The co-op entered into formal relationships with local educational institutions to collect their WVO
 - Culinary Institute of America
 - Vassar College
 - SUNY New Paltz
- Also have friendly agreements with local restaurants that provide consistently high quality WVO
- Annual arrangement with the Dutchess County Fair – collected over 500 gallons over a week

Collection method

We built barrel stands to use with open top olive barrels



Summing it up

- The Hudson Valley Biodiesel Co-op is an evolving community based initiative to not only brew biodiesel for use by members but as an advocacy and educational forum to discuss renewable and sustainable energy practices.
 - We have brewed over 3,000 gallons
 - We have had a core membership of 10-12 members with new members passing though
 - At least 5 processor are now operation in the region from prior members

Contact Information

Hudson Valley Biodiesel Co-op
150 Cottekill Road
Cottekill, NY 12419

Meetings third Tuesday of the month
at the High Falls Café, High Falls, NY

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HVBIODIESELCOOP>

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