

Ashland gets free biodiesel delivery option

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Free bio-diesel deliveries are available for Ashland residents through a collaboration between Medford Fuel, Rising Phoenix Biofuels and local restaurants.

"Until now, the people of Ashland had to drive to Phoenix or get a card-lock account with Pacific Pride to use local biodiesel," said David Tourzan, Rising Phoenix manager. The deliveries used to cost about \$65 per hour.

The recycled bio-diesel can fuel cars, farm equipment, home heating systems and all diesel machinery, at a price of \$2.99 a gallon, delivery included, according to Tourzan.

"We decided to do this because we had a terrible year; we lost half of our sales," said Tourzan. "If prices are the major factor, we are just going to cut the prices."

Phoenix Organics, an eco-building, garden and farm center, is the first regular customer of this new offer.

"It works more efficiently in our vehicles and is easier for maintenance," said Abraham Harris, Phoenix Organics' general manager.

Collection companies buy used cooking oil from local restaurants at a competitive rate, convert it into biodiesel and then sell it at the Rising Phoenix station at Exit 24 on Interstate 5 and at Medford Fuel at Exit 19.

Customers can get 10 cents off per gallon if they go to participating restaurants or go online at www.oregonb99.com and print a coupon.

With a small deposit, 55 gallon drums and 250 gallon totes are available.

In a press release Tourzan encourages "fleets and municipalities to make the switch to low biodiesel blends before the state mandate requires it in 2009."

But the city of Ashland is not interested in bio-diesel at this time.

"We tried biodiesel a few years ago and we had more problems with our kind of engines," said Mike Morrison, maintenance supervisor for the city. "Maintenance was a lot more expensive. Firefighters and the hospital need something that they can trust at 100 percent."

Call 324-6695 for information on delivery service. Card-lock account applications are available via Medford Fuel by calling 773-7311.