



Brian B. Bennett, City of Des Moines Fleet Manager (standing on the ground) and Equipment Coordinator (up on the truck)

To get ready for those meetings and the biodiesel transition, Bennett said he relied on three things 1) his staff's research 2) his fuel supplier's prior biodiesel knowledge and 3) Ames-based Renewable Energy Group, Inc. who would be manufacturing the biodiesel the city would use.

Meyer shared biodiesel quality analysis reports to assure Bennett's group that his group was going to be delivering the highest quality biodiesel available. He also worked with Bennett to clean his storage tanks. "Cleaning the primary tanks prior to the first load is some good advice for maintaining good-quality fuel since they weren't new tanks and had been filled with other fuels."

Dave Slade, the biodiesel technical manager for Renewable Energy Group, Inc., walked Bennett through the biodiesel production process and reiterated Meyer's comment on maintaining biodiesel quality and explained how their 10-year biodiesel experience could help maintain quality from the production plant to the

know the OEMs recommend biodiesel. We also referenced the Two Million Mile Haul test taking place in Ft. Dodge which was showing scientific analysis of B20 head-to-head with diesel. They were getting great results, no loss in mileage and cleaner, smoother running engines. That boosted the final verdict and focused our team on the benefits of using biodiesel in our city fleet."

Displacing 50,000 gallons of diesel

When Kwik Oil arrived at the city's central fueling location with their first load of biodiesel blended fuel in the fall of 2006, Bennett and his entire team were ready for them. "We chose to take the extra steps to add the extra insurance for our departments," he explained.

After a year of using biodiesel, the City of Des Moines has displaced 50,000 gallons of petroleum-diesel. Bennett would recommend other cities in Iowa do their research, work with their teams and make the transition as soon as possible.

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