



Kevin B. Bennett, City of Des Moines Fleet Manager (standing on the ground) and Dave Slade, Renewable Energy, Inc. 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 reinforced Meyer's comments on maintaining biodiesel quality and explained how their 10-year biodiesel experience could help maintain quality from the production plant to the bulldozer's fuel tank. "Brian's mechanics had heard horror stories about biodiesel. I shared with them that Biodiesel blend of B20 or less, like Des Moines would be using, wouldn't require any retrofits or service to any modern engine. Learning that relieved their hesitations," said Slade.

During the roundtable, Bennett's team presented a position report encouraging adoption of B5 into the fleet and ramping up to B20. "Original equipment manufacturers (OEM) are recommending B20. Cummins, International and Caterpillar recompute a high percentage of our owned/fleet fueled fleet, so it was important for the users of our off-road equipment to

know the OEMs recommended biodiesel. We also referenced the Two Million Mile Haul we 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 helped the final myth and focused our team on the benefits of using biodiesel in our city fleet."

Displacing 50,000 gallons of diesel

When Kock 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 users and make the conversion to renewable, clean burning fuel.

"We know from research and science that biodiesel reduces emissions. We're lucky in Iowa to have clean air and we're doing our part to keep it that way," Bennett said. "The City of Des Moines Fleet Services group chose to have an open approach, and work with concerns as we transitioned into biodiesel use," he said. "The use of biodiesel has not had a negative effect on performance of our fleet. We've had a positive, good acceptance among users."

Related article on page 17.



VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC.

COMPREHENSIVE ENGINEERING SERVICES

- Water and Wastewater
- Environmental Studies
- Transportation Management
- Transportation
- Planning and Funding
- Civil and Traffic Management

West Des Moines

• 515-271-0000

Omaha

• 402-471-2333

Moore City

• 515-271-0000

Carrollville

• 502-285-2000

Madison

• 608-271-2000

Sioux City

• 712-271-0000

The Brinmeyer Group, Inc.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH & CONSULTANTS

THE
PRODUCT
IS OUR
PROCESS

City South North Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

562.942.0016
562.942.0014
brinmeyer@aol.com
www.brinmeyer.com



Storm Emergency Equipment

weathered - 100% - Supply - Delivery

Toll Free: 1-800-830-2330

Sales of Outdoor Warning Systems
and Emergency Equipment.



FEDERAL SIGNAL

Weather Warning Systems

WWW.DANKO.NET



Blotch HoPac's

Call: 402-380-2799

brinmeyer@dankonet.net



WATER • WASTEWATER
STREETS • STORM WATER
SURVEY • PLANNING

Serving Iowa since 1948

Address: 2000 W. 10th St. • Des Moines, IA 50319

Highway • 10th St. • 515-271-0000 • 515-271-0000