

EESI Recognizes Fleets for Use of Biodiesel



Steve Andreorio, fleet manager for Academy School District 20, and Ben Cole, fleet manager for Colorado Springs School District 11, collaborated in their effort to enhance air quality through clean school buses.

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) has recognized school bus fleets in Medford, N.J.; Colorado Springs; and Chicago with the Nation Clean Bus Leadership Recognition Program award for using biodiesel in their vehicles.

As part of its overall mission, the non-profit organization focuses on cleaner energy solutions for transportation and facilitates peer mentoring to help communities assist each other in identifying clean transportation sources and funding.

"We see efforts to clean up these fleets as especially important. Effects of diesel exhaust are especially hard on children," said EESI policy analyst Shefali Ranganathan. "These schools are making efforts to get these dirty buses off the road and clean up their existing buses."

Medford Township Public School District in New Jersey was highlighted for operating its 62 school buses on a B20 blend for the past eight years,

Ranganathan said. By using biodiesel, the district, which transports 3,500 students each day, has displaced more than 70,000 gallons of petroleum diesel and significantly reduced toxic emissions.

"They are the pioneers of biodiesel use," she said. "They've made a long-term commitment to biodiesel and proved its workability in the school bus fleet."

Colorado Springs School District 11 and Academy School District 20 received recognition for their cooperative effort to clean up their school bus fleets through the use of biodiesel and other methods to reduce emissions and increase efficiency.

The transportation departments joined forces to secure EPA funding for retrofitting and anti-idling measures as well as biodiesel use. In addition to being environmentally conscious, the effort is further motivated by the health benefits to the students and increased fuel economy, said District 11 transportation director William Bair.

District 11 transports 7,000 students daily on 116 buses, nine of which have diesel oxidation catalysts and run on biodiesel. Four more were schedule for retrofitting in December. The fleet travels 1.3 million miles each year.

District 20 operates a fleet of 132 school buses, 12 of which are fitted with DOC equipment and use biodiesel, the combination of which fleet director Steve Andreorio said reduces the density of smoke emissions by approximately 60 percent on each bus.

"We all recognize the importance of reducing emissions, and those of us in school districts had the opportunity to make a difference in our area," Andreorio said.

The EESI recognized Cook-Illinois Corporation for demonstrating corporate environmental stewardship through the use of biodiesel in 800 of its 1,400 buses, making it one of the largest school bus fleets in the country to use the alternative fuel. The company operates in more than 50 school districts in Illinois and its school buses travel 4 million miles each year.



Medford Township Public Schools has been fueling up with biodiesel since 1997.

"They took the initiative sans any government mandates," Ranganathan said. "Cook Illinois also serves as an example for other contractors. If one private institution does it and can make it work ... other bus operators are likely to follow." [STN](#)