

Contents

Acknowledgements	
Preface	
Chapter 1 – Introduction	1
Chapter 2 – North American Energy Consumption	9
2.1 <i>Energy Inefficiency</i>	9
2.2 <i>The Issues of Pollution and Climate Change</i>	19
2.3 <i>Geopolitics and Oil</i>	25
2.4 <i>Peak Oil a.k.a. Production Limits</i>	34
2.5 <i>The Case for Biofuels</i>	43
Chapter 3 – Technical Background of Diesel/Biodiesel Fuels	59
3.1 <i>Petrodiesel</i>	59
<i>Petrodiesel Fuel Properties</i>	63
<i>Petrodiesel Specification Overview</i>	65
3.2 <i>The Diesel Engine</i>	68
<i>Environmental Benefits of Biodiesel</i>	71
<i>Engine Technology</i>	72
<i>Fuel Injection Systems</i>	76
<i>Basic Fuel Injection</i>	77
<i>Common Rail Direct Injection</i>	78
<i>Engine and Vehicle Efficiency</i>	79
3.3 <i>An Introduction to Biodiesel</i>	81
<i>Technical Issues</i>	86
<i>The “Pros” of Biodiesel</i>	86
<i>The “Cons” of Biodiesel</i>	91
<i>Biodiesel Fuel Quality</i>	101
<i>Fuel Quality Summary</i>	196
Chapter 4 – Oil Feedstocks	107
4.1 <i>An Introduction to Biodiesel Feedstock</i>	107
4.2 <i>Refined Vegetable Oils</i>	112
4.3 <i>An Overview of Waste Oils and Fats</i>	128

Contents

4.4	<i>Waste Fryer Oils and Fats</i>	133
4.5	<i>Yellow Grease</i>	140
4.6	<i>Brown Grease</i>	141
4.7	<i>Feedstock Summary</i>	142
Chapter 5 – Commercial Biodiesel Production		143
5.1	<i>Overview</i>	143
5.2	<i>Technology Selection - Process Selection: Batch vs. Continuous</i>	147
5.3	<i>Economic Considerations</i>	154
5.4	<i>Scaling the Production Process Downwards</i>	158
Chapter 6 – High Blend Levels of Biodiesel		165
6.1	<i>The Politics of B100</i>	165
6.2	<i>Engine Analysis after Operating on B100</i>	172
Chapter 7 – Debunking the Homebrew Myth		191
7.1	<i>Raw Biodiesel Production</i>	191
7.2	<i>The History of Micro-Scale Biodiesel</i>	199
7.3	<i>Steve Anderson – “I’m Just a Simple Home Brewer”</i>	202
7.4	<i>Dave Probert – Biodiesel to Go</i>	226
7.5	<i>Lyle Rudensey – a.k.a. “BioLyle”</i>	231
7.6	<i>A Quick Stop at Church</i>	235
7.7	<i>Sean McAdam – Veggie Gas</i>	242
7.8	<i>Summary</i>	248
7.9	<i>Straight Vegetable Oil vs. Biodiesel</i>	254
Chapter 8 – The Small-Scale Solution		267
8.1	<i>Overview of the Technology</i>	267
8.2	<i>The Small-Scale Plant</i>	289
8.2.1	<i>General Issues</i>	289
8.2.2	<i>WVO Treatment Unit</i>	312
8.2.3	<i>Biodiesel Reactor Unit with Methanol Recovery</i>	320
8.2.4	<i>Sodium Methoxide Processor</i>	329
8.2.5	<i>Fuel Washing Unit (Misting and Bubble Washing)</i>	342
8.2.6	<i>Fuel Dryer and Final Processing Unit</i>	352
8.2.7	<i>Fuel Dispensing Unit</i>	362

8.2.8	<i>Glycerine Processing Unit</i>	373
8.2.9	<i>Fuel Quality Laboratory</i>	376
8.2.10	<i>Safety Equipment</i>	380
8.3	<i>Production Procedures</i>	393
8.3.1	<i>Obtaining Waste Vegetable Oil</i>	393
8.3.2	<i>Cold Pressing Oil Seed</i>	402
8.3.3	<i>One-Liter Biodiesel Test Reaction</i>	414
8.3.4	<i>Oil Pretreatment</i>	426
8.3.5	<i>Sodium/Potassium Methoxide Preparation</i>	433
8.3.6	<i>Reacting the Oil with Sodium Methoxide</i>	456
8.3.7	<i>Mist and Bubble Washing Steps</i>	468
8.3.8	<i>Dying and Final Biodiesel Treatment</i>	481
8.3.9	<i>Quality Control Testing</i>	487
8.3.10	<i>Environmental Sustainability</i>	511
Chapter 9 – Home Heating with Biodiesel		525
9.1	<i>Overview</i>	525
9.2	<i>Biodiesel Heat without Electricity</i>	528
9.3	<i>Handling/Storage/Blending</i>	532
9.4	<i>Not Quite Heating Ideas</i>	533
Chapter 10 – Glycerin		537
10.1	<i>Soap Production</i>	538
10.2	<i>Dust Suppression</i>	551
10.3	<i>Composting</i>	554
10.4	<i>Landfilling</i>	554
10.5	<i>Combusting</i>	555
Conclusion		557
Glossary		558
Notes		563
Appendices		
Appendix 1	<i>ASTM D 6751 Fuel Quality Standard Overview</i>	568
Appendix 2	<i>Resource Guide</i>	569
Appendix 3	<i>Oil Production of Common Crops</i>	575
Index		576