

Young Missouri Man Develops Kit To Convert Vegetable Oil To Vehicle Fuel

By JoLynn Fox

After working on the design for two years and installing it in his own diesel engine vehicle, six months ago Charles Anderson of Drury, Mo., put together a kit on his unique product and started his marketing campaign.

"It has really taken off, and we are traveling from the Ozarks in Missouri, to San Francisco, via Colorado Springs, Albuquerque and Salt Lake City, then back home," he related.

Anderson and his partner stopped in Holbrook Monday evening for dinner. They are driving Anderson's Greasel pickup, which is fueled by free waste vegetable oil.

Using vegetable oil as fuel is not a new idea, explained Anderson.

Rudolph Diesel demonstrated his diesel engine at the 1900 World Fair, using peanut oil. In Germany, bio-diesel fuel, using methanol and diesel oil, is being used.

Anderson said that his product allows for the use of straight vegetable oil (SVO) as a clean-burning, economical fuel that puts a waste product back into use.

The Greasel conversion kit allows any diesel engine to run on waste vegetable oil.

The kit includes a heated tank, vented cap, fuel gauge, fuel selector switch, necessary hoses, fittings and connectors, fasteners and installation hardware, including a special filter for the vegetable oil.

"Used cooking oil is found in restaurants, which have to pay to have it hauled away. One restaurant can supply 15 to 50 gallons of used vegetable oil a week. With the Greasel conversion kit, the used oil is filtered into the kit's tank, putting the oil back into use," said Anderson.

The oil burns clean and is environmentally friendly. Anderson added that the exhaust can have a slight odor of whatever



Charles Anderson shows off his Greasel truck, which operates on vegetable oil. (Photo by JoLynn Fox)

the vegetable oil was used to cook.

He explained that the system heats the cooking oil, using the radiator coolant heated by the vehicle's engine. This keeps the cooking oil flowing.

The conversion allows the vehicle to still be operated with regular diesel fuel. A cold engine is started with regular fuel, then switched to vegetable oil. Before turning off the engine, the fuel is switched back to diesel fuel to flush the system before it is turned off.

The mileage per gallon is the same as what regular diesel fuel gives.

"The main thing is that the vegetable oil burns cleaner and is a renewal fuel. It is supplied by growing crops that are manufactured as vegetable oil, and the system takes the used vegetable oil to operate any diesel engine. It is a complete cycle, when

compared to our use of gasoline and oil taken from the earth," said Anderson.

Anderson grew up in Alaska, where he was home schooled. When he was a senior, he was an exchange student in Japan.

"My grandfather was an expert in diesel engines and he interested me enough that my first car was diesel powered. Then I started to experiment with the concept of alternative fuel," explained the young entrepreneur.

He has set up a web site for his product, www.greasel.com, and is going to San Francisco to install his product.

"When people found out I was coming west, they placed orders, and I am stopping along the way to install them," noted Anderson.

The conversion kits are getting a positive reaction from the public. He said that vegetable oil is not volatile, it burns cleaner and it is renewable.