

Crunching the numbers on alternative fuels.

BY Mike Allen

Lead Photograph by Christian Patterson

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Oil, Hold the Fries

Tom McGurr, a New Jersey contractor, has found a new way to beat the high cost of diesel--by scrounging used vegetable oil from fast-food restaurants, which are usually happy to give it away. But McGurr doesn't just pour fry oil into his tank. Using a kit from Missouri-based Greasel Conversions, McGurr filters the cooking oil into a tank in the truck bed. Water from the engine's cooling system then heats the viscous oil before it's pumped into the engine. "I've put about 4000 miles on the conversion, and the truck runs great," McGurr says. "My commute is about 35 miles each way, and after only a few miles I can switch from regular diesel to the heated veggie oil, even on cold days." A few miles from the end of the day's driving, McGurr switches back to diesel to flush out the lines so oil doesn't congeal in the fuel-injection system. Charlie Anderson, owner of Greasel Conversions, has sold over 4500 of the kits to date; they cost \$800 and up. greasel.com

