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## **B99 biodiesel now available in county**

By Melissa Santos / Herald Writer

MARYSVILLE - This town has become a destination for those looking for cleaner-burning fuel.

Marysville is now home to Snohomish County's only pump with B99, a blend of 99 percent biodiesel from vegetable oils and 1 percent petroleum diesel, in addition to a whole station full of pumps carrying a 20-percent biodiesel blend.

The B99 pump opened Friday at American Distributing Co.

Steve Miller, owner of American Distributing, said he opened the pump to cater to people who want a biodiesel blend more concentrated than B20, which is available at nearby Donna's Truck Stop.

"We kind of see it as fitting a special niche," he said.

Nationwide, biodiesel consumption increased from 25 million gallons in 2004 to 75 million gallons last year, according to the National Biodiesel Board. Miller only sees demand increasing in the future, he said.

"We kind of compare it to opening a disco club," Miller said. "If you opened up at the beginning of the era, you made a mint. You have to get your foot in the door early."

Consumers are starting to recognize the benefits of biodiesel and seek it out, said Justin Clements, a marketing manager for Whole Energy, a Bellingham-based wholesale supplier of biodiesel.

In addition to generally burning cleaner than petroleum fuels, biodiesel can be locally produced, reducing dependence on foreign oil supplies, Clements said.

"Since it is a domestic-produced fuel, it's supporting a cleaner industry, but also a domestic industry," Clements said. "We're supporting our own."

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