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High-grade biodiesel goes on sale in city;

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Mobile pumping unit to come to town on Saturdays KIRA MILLAGE

THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

You may have heard of **biodiesel**, the fuel made from used vegetable oil that can run your car. Now an almost-pure form is easily available in Bellingham.

Whole Energy Fuels, based in Mount Vernon, launched a new mobile unit location at Food Pavilion on Old Fairhaven Parkway on Saturday. The fuel is dispensed from a van that can carry 800 gallons of **biodiesel**. It's the only place in Whatcom County where people can count on getting B99, which is 99 percent pure **biodiesel**, said brothers Justin and Joshua Clements, who staff the location.

"After the hurricanes hit (the Gulf Coast last summer) was when we saw a dramatic increase in interest," Justin Clements said. "For a while after the hurricanes, we were quite a bit cheaper than petroleum."

Justin Clements, 26, started working with the new fuel in 2002, when he founded Bellingham **Biodiesel**. In 2004, he and his brother joined Whole Energy Fuels.

"People didn't know what **biodiesel** was," Justin Clements said of his early experience with Bellingham **Biodiesel**. "A small niche of people knew what it was, but a lot of people didn't believe in the product."

Now, the term **biodiesel** is becoming mainstream.

About 20 cars had filled up at the Fairhaven location by 2 p.m. Saturday, but many more people had stopped by to learn about the fuel, said Joshua Clements, 32.

"People are interested in different means and different alternatives to fueling their vehicles, fueling their heavy equipment," he said.

One such person is Bellingham resident Doug Madsen. The 50-year-old has been filling his diesel Volkswagen Beetle with the fuel for a couple of years.

"It burns cleaner and smells less nasty," he said Saturday afternoon after filling up. "It's part of the equation for us as a nation to get off foreign oil dependency."

Joshua Clements believes the environment and the war in Iraq are two of the reasons people are becoming more and more interested in **biodiesel**.

"We have customers that have Bush '04 stickers and we have customers that have the typical Bellingham 'get Bush out of office' stickers," Joshua Clements said. "It's wonderful to see people from all different perspectives being interested in alternative fuel sources."

Whole Energy Fuels is working with McEvoy Oil Company to distribute the **high**-purity fuel to permanent locations. The Clements brothers said the Deming Quick Stop is putting in a pumping station soon for B99. They will also continue to offer the B20 blend, which is 20 percent **biodiesel** and 80 percent regular diesel. The exact date when the B99 will be available is unknown.

ABOUT BIODIESEL

B99, an almost pure form of **biodiesel**, is available at Food Pavilion, 3125 Old Fairhaven Parkway, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$3.05 per gallon.

B20, a blend of 20 percent **biodiesel** and 80 percent regular diesel, is available at locations in Whatcom County including:

Deming Quick Stop Grocery, 4895 Mount Baker Highway, Deming

Sammy's Place, 1715 N. State St., Bellingham

Yorky's Market, 3910 Bennett Drive, Bellingham

For more information, visit www.whole-energy.com.