

## EDUCATION MATTERS! MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“In the closing days of 2019, Congress passed an omnibus appropriations measure that included a multi-year extension of the biodiesel tax incentive. The tax package extends the \$1-per-gallon tax credit for biodiesel and renewable diesel retroactively for 2018 and 2019 and prospectively for 2020, 2021 and 2022. There is no question that the biodiesel tax credit will help drive the industry forward. A substantial educational effort was needed, and I am proud to say that the National Biodiesel Foundation played its role by hosting two Congressional staff tours. One in New York and one in California. On both tours, Congressional staffers learned how the biodiesel tax credit is important to New York City and the state of California as well as saw firsthand how biodiesel is used in critical fleet operations and plays a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This past September we hosted our first California tour. Staffers from seven California House and Senate offices met in Sacramento for a one-day educational biodiesel briefing with site visits. The group went to the Sacramento Rendering Company and learned about animal fats used in biodiesel production and a county government fleet maintenance facility where state and local government fleet managers discussed their use of biodiesel. Congressional Members Nanette Diaz Barragán, Ami Bera, T.J. Cox, Jerry McNerney, John Garamendi, and Eric Swalwell, as well as Sen. Dianne Feinstein were represented. The tour helped NBF build relationships and educate state staffers and their members. Throughout the tour, speakers emphasized how the federal biodiesel tax incentive helps California. By blending more than 10% of the nation’s biodiesel and renewable diesel the state earns a considerable return from federal tax credits. The credit lowers the cost of the LCFS program for California drivers and government fleets. City and county fleet operators explained to staffers that lower fuel costs enable them to invest in new, more fuel-efficient equipment. Our special thanks go to Jennifer Case, New Leaf Biodiesel; Harry Simpson, Crimson Renewable Energy; Doug Smith, Baker Commodities Inc.; Tim Taylor, Sacramento Clean Cities; and to the CA Advanced Biofuel Alliance for their invaluable help hosting the tour.



- Tom Verry, Executive Director

## RESEARCH CONFIRMS SUSTAINABILITY OF VEGETABLE OILS IN RENEWABLE FUELS

The sustainability research projects funded by NBF continue to pay dividends. A major sustainability issue for biofuels has been the ongoing question of land use change (LUC). The biodiesel industry proudly claims environmental benefits including the reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on the order of 25 million tons each year by displacing fossil fuels, while also stimulating the economy. But critics question whether this economic stimulus directed at the agriculture sector might encourage farmers to clear more land for the purpose of food and fuel. NBF supported research at Purdue University to address these questions and quantify LUC impacts of biofuels. Study results confirm that biodiesel made from all US feedstocks meets the definition of advanced biofuel and participates heartily in CA and OR low carbon fuel standards. Purdue’s work has also helped settle the global debate about the role of vegetable oils in carbon fuel policies. In 2018, the European Union was poised to remove soybean and rapeseed oils from their Renewable Energy Directive. Not only did NBF’s work with Purdue help confirm the role of these feedstocks for the coming decades but also helped establish the recently adopted methodology by the International Civil Aviation Organization that now counts these feedstocks favorably toward carbon reductions. Were it not for NBF’s investments in this type of research, vegetable oils would be excluded, rather than lauded, for their sustainability benefits in renewable fuels.

## EPA AWARDS NBF FUNDING TO DEMONSTRATE B-100 TECHNOLOGY

Last fall, NBF received grant funding from the EPA for its 2020 National Clean Diesel Project. Partnering with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), Optimus Technologies, and the Renewable Energy Group, the project supports the purchase of three new snowplows that will operate on B100 and retire older polluting vehicles. These B100-optimized vehicles are providing communities in Des Moines and Ames with lower NOx and PM emissions on rail yard, terminal, and key distribution center routes. New vehicles will use Optimus' Vector Technology, allowing them to operate on 100% biodiesel. "The Iowa DOT is pleased to receive this award to help our fleet improve air quality in Iowa and maintain our status as an early adopter of biofuels," said David May, Iowa DOT Fleet Manager. The grant also funds technician training and outreach efforts featuring biodiesel and its benefits.



***"At the Foundation, we are excited to partner with Iowa DOT on the first successful EPA DERA grant utilizing the Optimus B100 technology. It is a project like this that showcases the benefits of higher biodiesel blends as the future of clean and sustainable diesel." -- Tom Verry***

## FLEET TRAINING PROVIDED OVERVIEW TO DC FLEETS ON B100 TECHNOLOGY

The Foundation co-sponsored a fleet training last August at the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) to provide an overview of its B100 demonstration using the Optimus Vector Technology add-on system. This system allows fleets to run on 100% biodiesel with no efficiency or mechanical issues. The system includes heaters to prevent cold weather issues. DPW has been operating six garbage packers with the B100 Optimus system throughout the harsh winter without any issues. Because of its success, DPW has ordered an additional 17 units. The training benefited more than 20 attendees from fleets plus another dozen interested parties. Training sponsors included Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition, REG, Optimus, and DPW.



## Now Accepting Applications for \$2,000 Beth Calabotta Education Grant

Do you know a university student with an interest in science and \$2000 offered by the Beth Calabotta Sustainability Education Grant? To qualify, students must complete an application and if awarded the grant, commit to participate in the Biodiesel Sustainability Workshop and related activities scheduled for the first week of November 2020 in St. Louis, Missouri. Grant funds may be used to attend the workshop with any remaining funds applied toward academic expenses. Other eligibility requirements and full criteria are available on the [grant homepage](#). Applications are due May 31, 2020. The grant winner will be announced by August 30, 2020.

The National Biodiesel Foundation established this grant in 2018 to assist deserving full-time students interested in science, research, and biodiesel sustainability. "Beth was an advocate for student development and a supporter of biofuel sustainability. She had an unquenchable love for agriculture and life-sciences," said Tom Verry, Executive Director for the National Biodiesel Foundation. "Beth had a passion for student education and advanced biofuels," commented Jeff Lynn, NBF President, "The Foundation is honored to provide financial support in her honor to continue her legacy." Funding for this grant comes from a generous donation from Bayer (Monsanto).



## Biodiesel Featured on Congressional Educational Tours

The Foundation expanded its educational efforts by sponsoring three congressional tours in 2019 in Iowa, New York, and more recently California. Last April, the Foundation hosted a group of congressional staffers in New York City (NYC) for the *Sustainable Biodiesel: Improving the Environment and Economy Tour*. This annual tour educates interested

congressional staff about NYC's use of biodiesel as a key component in meeting its environmental goals and how federal biodiesel policies are important to the city. The tour sparked a discussion on how federal policies have helped cities achieve environmental, health and sustainability goals by supporting the biodiesel industry. In August, NBF continued its support of the IRFA *Biofuels Science and Sustainability Tour*. Forty participants visited a family farm, biodiesel plant, blending facility, and a fuel retailer among other stops. This provided a full spectrum of the biodiesel production and distribution process from feedstock to retail. In September, the Foundation offered a California educational experience detailed in the Executive Director's message above.

NBF extends a warm thanks to tour sponsors including HERO BX, Incobrasa, Iowa Renewable Energy, Mid-America Biofuels, REG, Western Dubuque Biodiesel, Western Iowa Energy, and the National Biodiesel Board.

The Foundation will hold its next Congressional educational tour in New York this Spring.

## STUDENT SCIENTISTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This year, 15 university science majors with an interest in aspects of the biodiesel industry received travel scholarships to attend the 2020 National Biodiesel Conference & Expo in Tampa. The students represented Goldengate International College; Iowa State University; Loyola University Chicago; North Carolina State University; State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry; University of Idaho; University of Kansas; University of Minnesota and Yale University. NBB, the United Soybean Board, the National Biodiesel Foundation and the Kansas Soybean Commission sponsored the scholarships.



Student participation at the conference was made possible by the Next Generation Scientists for Biodiesel program which marked its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019. Since its inception, nearly 200 students have attended the National Biodiesel Conference, gaining valuable knowledge and connections. Program alumni have gone on to work in the biodiesel industry, start their own energy or feedstock companies, manage biodiesel lab facilities, and even serve on the World Energy Council.

This program is supported, in part, by donations to NBF and our Giving Tuesday campaign. This year's campaign goal was to fund 2-3 scientists to attend and present posters at the NBB Conference. Thank you to everyone who supported this effort. **The**

**next Giving Tuesday will be on December 1, 2020.**

## Auctions Raise Important Funding at Tampa Conference

The silent and live auctions held at the National Biodiesel Conference in Tampa last month were a resounding success. Thank you to the National Biodiesel Board for sponsoring the auction booth and to the Renewable Energy Group for allowing us to hold our Live Auction during their reception. Over the course of the three-and-a-half day conference Foundation fundraisers netted \$26,000. Activities also included a cigar fundraiser and cash donations. Thank you to everyone who sponsored and purchased items or made donations. See the list of donors at bottom. Funds raised are central to ensuring the organization can implement important biodiesel research and education in the coming year.



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