



New Orleans Puts All the Pieces Together for Low-Carbon Fuels

The Clean Fuels Foundation recently hosted 14 congressional staffers in New Orleans and the surrounding region. The goal of the tour was to showcase the entire value chain of biodiesel and renewable diesel production, from feedstock to fuel distribution. Every stop unveiled fresh perspectives and the tour participants learned first-hand how these decarbonizing fuels are growing local economies.

The first stop was Bunge Chevron Ag Renewables, LLC. They are an agribusiness company that supplies raw and processed agricultural commodities and specialized food ingredients to a wide range of customers. Bunge has operated a soybean processing plant and grain export facility in Destrehan for decades. Harrison Lang, Logistics Manager, and Luke Blocker, Assistant Plant Manager, discussed the recently announced joint venture that would expand the facility to support Chevron's renewable diesel production in Geismar, Louisiana. Participants learned how soybeans are crushed to produce meal for food and feed and oil for many uses, including biodiesel and renewable diesel.



Figure 1: Luke Blocker, Assistant Plant Manager



Figure 1: IMTT showing tour participants a ship unloading used cooking oil for renewable diesel

The next stop was a tour of IMTT terminals and lunch at the Jimmy Club. IMTT has 19 terminals serving North America's dynamic distribution centers at both ends of the Mississippi Valley, at both ends of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River System, on the Atlantic Coast in New York and Virginia, and the Pacific Coast.

Other notable speakers:

- **Paul Winters**, Director of Public Affairs, Clean Fuels Alliance America, explained how biodiesel, renewable diesel, and renewable jet fuel are made, and reviewed the policies and economic factors that are driving the industry's rapid growth.

- **Kevin Cambre**, Manufacturing Operations Senior Manager at Chevron Renewable Energy Group’s Geismar Biorefinery discussed progress on expanding production of renewable diesel and other products. Geismar is about 20 miles from Baton Rouge.
- **Tom Verry**, Executive Director Clean Fuels Foundation moderated a panel of speakers from biomass-based diesel companies: Ag Processing, Inc., Innovative Ag Services, Gevo, Chevron Renewable Energy Group, and ADM presented on renewable diesel and biodiesel.

ARTCO NOLA General Manager, Brent Boeckman discussed the company’s sustainability goals for its fleet; ARTCO currently fuels its boats with biodiesel in some locations and would use more if it could. Participants received a first-hand look at the complexity and scale of the grain-handling industry.



Clean Fuels Foundation closed out the tour with a group discussion about the importance of policies, how the industry has grown since the implementation of key federal policies, and what happens to businesses when the policies are unstable.

The next tour will take congressional staffers to New York City in June to see how biodiesel and renewable diesel fit into the city’s sustainability plans. Stay tuned to learn more.

A special thank you to our tour sponsors: Chevron Renewable Energy Group, ADM, AGP, Clean Fuels Alliance America, Gevo, Inc., HERO BX, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Innovative Ag Services, Minnesota Soybean Processors, Western Iowa Energy.

