

City of Victoria

2006 Energy Aware Award Application

Vancouver Island Biodiesel Evaluation Study

Executive summary

In December of 2004, the City of Victoria partnered with a local environmental firm, Wise Energy to launch the Vancouver Island Biodiesel Evaluation Study, a six month pilot (December 10, 2004 to June 10, 2005) to assess biodiesel usage and its impact on the environment. VIBES participants included both private and public sector fleets – City of Victoria, BC Mail Plus, BC Transit, Canada Post, Columbia Fuels, District of Saanich, Sooke School District 62, and Vancouver Island Powerline. This project represented the largest cross sector fleet evaluation of biodiesel in Canada. This project was funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Government of Canada, and the Province of British Columbia.

The main goal of the Biodiesel Evaluation Study was to promote the use of environmentally friendly fuels, raise community awareness of and dispel myths about renewable fuels, and set the stage for local production or distribution of biodiesel.

This project provided local fleet operators an opportunity to use biodiesel in real life settings and to support the private sector with the potential establishment of a market to support the local production of biodiesel. It supports the wider goals of sustainable development including social benefits through community and staff involvement.

This study, along with others conducted throughout the province has resulted in biodiesel becoming commercially available across the province at prices that are currently comparable to petroleum diesel.

The results of the Vancouver Island Biodiesel Evaluation Study are attached.