

# THE Homesteader®

NORTHERN COLORADO EDITION

THE PUBLICATION FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS

*Welcome to the Area!*

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THE HOMESTEADER

JUNE 2008

BEYOND THE CURB

## Alternative fuels impact more than air quality

By Katrina Pfannkuch

The rising prices at the pump have finally moved from fiction to fact. At an average of \$3.50 or more per gallon, people are not only grumbling, they are frustrated. Add that to the increased concern about fossil fuels and air pollution and what do you have? The quest for local, nature-based fuel options.

For every dollar spent on soy-based fuels, 65 cents of that will remain in the local economy. In contrast, 65 cents spent on foreign oil sources means we are helping to support an overseas economy instead. Right now, the US imports 65% of the world's oil supply annually, and our demands are increasing daily. We don't have any control over the price or availability of foreign oil, and that puts us and our economy at a disadvantage.

According to Steve Bond, a representative from Blue Sun biodiesel, the best option is to create a cheaper domestic source of energy that can become a competitive advantage for us globally. Instead of competing for scarce resources, he believes we should put that same time, energy and money into local alternative fuel efforts. It also allows us a more consistent pricing model for local consumers.

**Fuel Facts**

Petrol diesel is by far the largest contributor to toxic air pollution in Larimer County. You have a larger chance of getting cancer from diesel exhaust emissions than all other air toxins combined, according to the Clean Air Task Force located in Boston, Massachusetts ([www.catf.us](http://www.catf.us)). And according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, biodiesel produces 80% fewer cancer causing emissions and 50% fewer asthma causing emissions than petrol-diesel.

B20 fuel is comprised of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum diesel fuel, and is made of soy and canola oil from regional farmers. B20 runs 18 percent cleaner than petroleum diesel, and the biodiesel portion is both non-toxic and biodegradable.

"By getting local companies to use B20, we can help to reduce toxic air pollution, keep fuel dollars within the community, and reduce dependence on foreign oil," Fred Kirsch head of the Community for Sustainable Energy (CSE) said. CSE is a grassroots canvassing organization that advocates practical solutions we can achieve within the community, and acts as the voice of the community when talking to local lawmakers and organizations. Fort Collins city buses and vehicles, Colorado State University, the Forrest Service, New Belgium, O'Dells and Denver trash trucks are already using biodiesel fuels. Denver fleet managers are reporting increased fuel mileage and reduced maintenance costs using biodiesel, making it cost-competitive with petroleum according to Tony Cooper, Denver Fleet Maintenance Engineer.

The most important next step is to educate people about how they can help and contribute to changing dependence on foreign fuels locally, and to think outside of the box. Agri-America, a North Carolina-based CO-OP is turning trash into fuel. They collect local waste veggies from restaurants within a 15 mile radius of the center, then transform them into biodiesel fuels. CO-OP members pitch in to make the fuel, and are then



allotted a certain amount per month. "We collect locally, make the fuel locally, and reap the air quality benefits locally," said owner Eric Henry. "We want to be a model for other communities to demonstrate how to reduce and conserve," he added.

**Community benefits**

Besides increased air quality, there are very clear local benefits to developing a local fuel source, including:

- Research and Development job opportunities from renewable energy research
- A more diverse and increased uses for agriculture services
- Reduced dependence on foreign oil and resources
- Improved local economy

As the demand for crops grows locally, farmers, local alternative fuel suppliers and consumers all benefit. In addition, the community is able to make use of marginal quality farmlands and grow canola and camelina oil as a winter rotation crop. Currently, the Poudre Valley Co-op and Team Petroleum have biodiesel pumps for fleet trucks and cars. By switching to B20, local trash haulers alone can buy 80,000 gallons of locally grown and processed fuel each year and support the local economy of growers, as well as reduce dependency on foreign oil sources.

Some long-range benefits of using an alternative fuel source are overall improved health care of a community, as well as reduced health costs from lower harmful emissions. In addition, engine wear will be reduced, and that translates into lower overall maintenance costs for businesses.

**What can you do?**

Some simple ways people can contribute through their own sustainable habits include:

- Get a home energy audit through Fort Collins Utilities (221-6700)

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**Winners of \$20 Gift Certificate to The Island Grill** *(see ad on page 12):*

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*If you would like a chance to win a \$50 Gift Certificate to any advertiser or other great prizes, simply read this issue carefully and see if you can spot the advertisement that is not real. Then fill out the entry form on this page & mail it in or save a stamp and enter at [www.ColoradoHomesteader.com](http://www.ColoradoHomesteader.com) by the 20th of the month.*

# Find The Fake Ad™ & Win Prizes!

Hidden among the pages of every issue of *The Homesteader* is a Fake Ad™. If you would like a chance to win a \$50 Gift Certificate to any advertiser or other great prizes, simply read this issue carefully and see if you can spot the advertisement that is not real. Then fill out the entry form below & mail it in or save a stamp and enter at [www.ColoradoHomesteader.com](http://www.ColoradoHomesteader.com) by the 20th of the month.

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*Only one entry per household is allowed each month. One first-prize winner and one or more second-prize winners will be drawn from among all of the correct entries received. All winners will be contacted by mail.*

## Alternative fuels impact more than air quality

CSE and upcoming events to build your awareness of alternative energy sources, go to: [www.cforse.org](http://www.cforse.org)

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- Use compact florescent light bulbs
- Limit use of air conditioning
- Car pool
- Ride the bus
- Bike as often as possible

"There is not one single solution to solve all of our energy problems, says Fred. We need to work as a community to do what we can, be more efficient with what we have and use a combination of clean, renewable energy sources." To learn more about

### About CSE:

CSE makes people aware of the hot topics through canvassing door to door. They advocate practical solutions that can be achieved within the community by acting as the voice of the community when talking to local lawmakers and organizations.

*Katrina Pfannkuch is owner of Buzzword Communications, LLC. She may be reached at 970-988-8404 or [www.buzzwordonline.com](http://www.buzzwordonline.com)*

## Cat enrichment: Toys and how to use them

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Keep a variety of types easily accessible. If your cat has a favorite, like a soft "baby" that she loves to cuddle with, you may want to leave that one out all the time.

Provide toys that offer a variety of uses. At least one toy to carry, one to wrestle with, one to roll, and one to "baby."

Hide-and-seek is a fun game for cats. "Found" toys are often much more attractive than a toy which is obviously introduced.

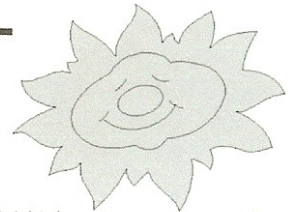
Many of your cat's toys should be interactive. Interactive play is very important for your cat because she needs active "people time" and such

play also enhances the bond between you and your pet. Cats generally engage in three types of play—"fishing, flying, and chasing"—and all types are much more engaging for cats when you are part of them.

For more information on cat behavior visit the training page on our website at [www.larimerhumane.org](http://www.larimerhumane.org) (under information) and mark your calendar for our cat and kitten adoption event, Whisker Whimsy on Saturday June 28th from 9am to 1pm at the Larimer Humane Society. This event includes discounted adoption fees, activities, face-painting, balloon animals, litter-box cake, goody bags and more!

*Cary Rentola is the marketing and community outreach manager at the Larimer Humane Society. She can be reached at 970-226-3647 extension 146 or by email at [cary@larimerhumane.org](mailto:cary@larimerhumane.org)*

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• *Smart Shoppers*

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• *The Landfill Has Gas!*

• *Making Music*

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Classes run June-August and are for kids 6-10 years old. Space is limited. For class descriptions, more information, or to register, call 498-5775 or visit [www.larimer.org/solidwaste](http://www.larimer.org/solidwaste).

