

# ALABAMA INSTITUTE FOR DEAF AND BLIND:



Now 150 years strong, AIDB's mission is to provide superior comprehensive education and service programs for individuals who are deaf, blind and multidisabled and their families. This commitment to excellence is carried out through three schools, serving children, three to 21 (Alabama School for the Deaf, Alabama School for the Blind, Helen Keller School of Alabama); an education/rehabilitation adult program (E.H. Gentry Facility); and a manufacturing complex (Alabama Industries for the Blind). AIDB serves more than 20,500 individuals through five Talladega campuses and statewide Regional Centers located in Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Talladega, Tuscumbia and Tuscaloosa.

## E.H. GENTRY FACILITY:



E.H. Gentry Facility's mission is to be a full service education and rehabilitation facility serving individuals 16 and older who have sensory/multiple disabilities and/or individuals requiring educational or employment remediation.



*Project Green was fueled by seed funding provided by Ala. Rep. Steve Hurst (left) and former Ala. Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner Ron Sparks who currently serves as Director of Alabama's Office of Rural Development (far right). Along with AIDB President, Dr. Terry Graham, they demonstrate that biodiesel is a clean-burning fuel that can be used in any diesel-burning engine.*



# Project Green

*Fueling Alabama Education*

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This public education brochure was developed utilizing U.S. Department of Energy funding supported by Alabama Congressman Mike Rogers.



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## PROJECT GREEN

Through extensive collaboration, AIDB is Alabama's first educational entity to initiate a biodiesel public education, training and production program, Project Green. With state and national replication potential, Project Green will benefit local businesses and city infrastructures within a 120-mile radius; provide alternative fuels' education to Alabama school systems and to schools for the deaf and blind in Appalachian States; train students with sensory and/or multiple disabilities in the acquisition and production of biodiesel; and educate the public on alternative fuels benefits. AIDB has the physical capacity to create 55 gallons of biodiesel per day for small numbers of AIDB buses, lawn equipment and maintenance vehicles.



## WHAT IS BIODIESEL?

Biodiesel is a fuel made by chemically reacting alcohol with vegetable oils, animal fats, or greases, such as recycled restaurant grease. Project Green uses Waste Vegetable Oil (WVO) from restaurants and individuals' homes. Biodiesel is most often blended with petroleum diesel in an 80/20 ratio (B80). It can also be burned without blending in petroleum diesel (B100).

## HOW IS BIODIESEL PRODUCED?

Numerous ways to produce biodiesel exist. After careful research, AIDB has found a safe and effective way for students with or without disabilities to get involved. Project Green has a five step process:

- G**et used cooking oils from restaurants and homes;
- R**emove food particles and evaporate water from WVO;
- E**ngage the processor, then set and forget for 24 hours;
- E**xtract the unusable by-product, glycerin; and
- N**eutralize excess chemicals by filtering the finished biodiesel.

## HOW IS BIODIESEL USED?

Any machine that operates on diesel fuel can operate on biodiesel. The only differences are that biodiesel is a cleaner burning fuel and is made of renewable resources. Biodiesel can be used in diesel powered cars, trucks, tractors, lawn equipment and construction equipment. It can also be used as a source of heat in oil burning heaters.

## HOT COOKING OIL CAN BE DANGEROUS

Acceptable Cooking Oils/Greases: Vegetable, Canola, Peanut, Olive, Soybean, Corn, Sunflower, Cottonseed, Beef, Pork, Poultry, and other animal fats.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BIODIESEL?

Using biodiesel to power our vehicles and heat our homes is good for the environment and for America. In addition, using WVO to create biodiesel reduces municipality sewage maintenance costs related to improper oil disposal. Because biodiesel is mostly made from either vegetable oils or waste vegetable oils, it is considered renewable energy. Developing renewable energy will help save our non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels, and decrease our national dependency on foreign oils.

## WHO CAN BE INVOLVED?

Everyone can be involved in Project Green. The most important part of biodiesel production is collecting WVO. To participate follow these steps:

- 🌱 Allow used cooking oil or grease to cool to a safe handling temperature;
- 🌱 Avoid adding water, soap, or any other liquids or products to cooking oil;
- 🌱 Remove cap and pour **ONLY** cooking oils and greases into a container;
- 🌱 Replace cap, return to designated area, and contact Project Green.

*Project Green is a student-led public education initiative. Bottom left: Former E.H. Gentry Deaf Services student Justin Seaborn, Calera; Top: Former Gentry Deaf Services Student Christen Shinn, Mobile; and Below: AL Congressman Mike Rogers, Sen. Jerry Fielding and Rep. Steve Hurst join AIDB administrators, students and staff along with local and state leaders in celebrating Project Green's establishment.*

