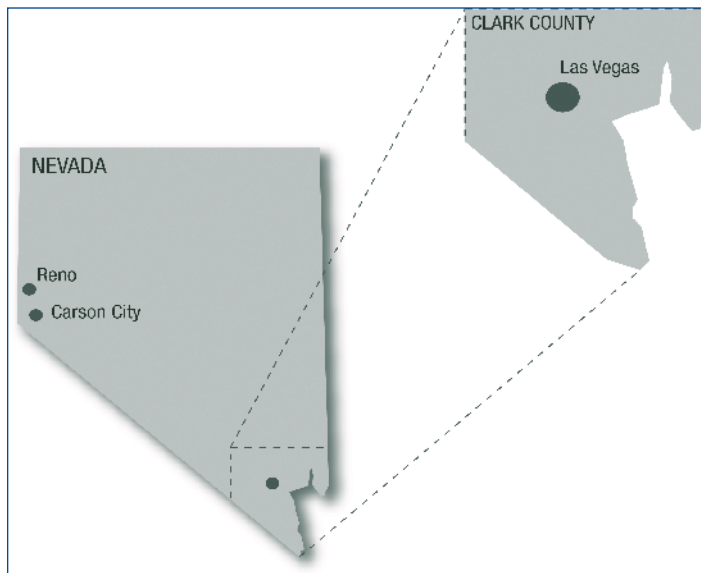


Las Vegas Serves up Biodiesel for Local Schools

Located in the southern tip of Nevada, Las Vegas is one of the premier tourist destinations in the American West, and one of the most significant tourist destinations in the world. Las Vegas is located in Clark County, which covers an area of almost 8,000 square miles. Clark County has a population of almost 1.5 million people, which is about 70 percent of the total population of Nevada. About 500,000 of these people live within the city limits of the City of Las Vegas.



Las Vegas is located in extreme southern Nevada

Given the population of Las Vegas and its position as a tourist destination, air quality and energy independence are of great importance to the area. The Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition (LVRCC) was established in 1993 to address these issues. LVRCC is financially self-sufficient, relying on contributions and grants from its stakeholder organizations to fund on-going operations and projects. Another measure of LVRCC's success is that through 2001, there were over 3,000 alternative fuel vehicles operating in the Las Vegas Valley. Several fleets in the Las Vegas area operate 100 or more AFVs, including Bechtel Nevada, the

City of Las Vegas, Clark County, Clark County School District, Las Vegas Water District, Nellis Air Force Base, Regional Transportation Commission, Southwest Gas Corporation, U.S. General Services Administration and Yellow Checker Star Transportation.

Alternative Fuel School Bus Activities in Las Vegas

One of the largest alternative fuel fleets in Clark County is the Clark County School District, which serves an estimated 246,000 students in 266 schools across the 8,000 square mile county. The school district currently operates virtually all of its buses on a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% regular diesel fuel. As Frank Giordano, vehicle maintenance coordinator indicated, "Our responsibility is to deliver children to and from school safely and efficiently. It was our obligation to explore alternatives that would help clean up the exhaust from our diesel engines. School districts have limited budgets, and so we had to explore reasonable alternatives. As we needed new buses, we worked with the engine manufacturer to include their new generation of cleaner burning diesel engines, and got their consent to run them on biodiesel."

The school district began its experience with a small pilot project in 2001. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the school district began running almost all of its 1,140 buses on biodiesel, making it the largest school bus fleet to do so, according to the LVRCC.

The biodiesel fuel is being produced by a local joint venture between Haycock Petroleum (of Las Vegas) and Biodiesel Industries (of Reno, Nevada). Haycock Petroleum is one of the oldest Chevron distributors in the U.S. Biodiesel Industries supplies "biodiesel for over 2,000 government fleet vehicles in the Las Vegas area," according to president Russ Teall.



For More Information

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For more information on the Clark County School District, visit <http://www.ccsd.net>

For more information on Biodiesel Industries, visit <http://www.pipeline.to/biodiesel>

The area does not have a good supply of soybeans, which are the feedstock for most biodiesel fuel, so the project partners looked elsewhere for a fuel feedstock. They found it by looking to the area's biggest tourist draw: its casinos.

Local hotel-casino kitchens go through a significant amount of cooking oil; Clark County restaurants produce twice the national average of 3 gallons of grease per resident per year. This joint venture between Haycock and Biodiesel Industries is unique in that it operates the only plant producing commercial biodiesel from the recycled food grease from the kitchens of the local casinos and restaurants.

Las Vegas Clean Cities Coordinator Dan Hyde praised the project, saying "we are proud to see the City of Las Vegas and Clark County leading by example. The use of alternative fuels is important both from an environmental perspective and to enhance our national security. Over half of our petroleum is imported from overseas, and from some fairly unstable parts of the world at that. Frank Giordano and his support team

deserve credit for demonstrating that biodiesel can work in large school bus fleets. His example should be considered by school districts across the country if they are serious about helping to reduce the health risks to our children."

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