

HELLO AGAIN!



FRIENDS OF SUNDANCE

Thanks to the generous loans and donations from several of our Friends of Sundance, we have been able to make a good start on our new plant.



Jan outside with work underway on the new plant

Work in Progress

We have laid the foundations for and installed a new 30,000 litre storage vessel and have equipped ourselves with one of the new process vessels (the methoxide mixer). We have also received a £20,000 loan from Carmarthenshire Loan Fund that has to be paid back in July (yikes!). The rest of our loan finance will hopefully

come from Finance Wales – but this is taking ages to sort with their administration. We have received the first grant payment from Hidden Dragon as a proportion of our expenditure so far - it's a bit of a juggling act!

Meanwhile, we have extended our opening hours to 8am – 8pm Monday-Friday (closed bank holidays). We hope to see more of you now – there's no excuse ☺

Words of wisdom from our technical manager, Alastair "Beware of mechanics who'll strip your fuel injection system just because the fuel filter needs changing..." Please advise us of any problems with your vehicles that you think may be related to running on biodiesel. If possible – come to us first and ask for Alastair aka 'Doctor Diesel'.



Doctor Diesel

But please don't expect us to perform miracles if you've been running your vehicle unmodified on straight veg oil – you know you're asking for trouble in the long run.

Household collection of used cooking oils at civic amenity sites

Look out for collection points at civic amenity sites across Carmarthenshire – Whitland, Trostre, Nantycaws, Llangadog, Wernddu and in Swansea too at the baling plant in Ferryboat Close, Swansea Enterprise Park. Next time you empty your fryer at home, pour your used cooking oil into a bottle and take it to your nearest CA site – or bring it straight to us next time you call by...every drop helps!

Phillipa Jones did a study for us as part of her Masters degree in Recycling Technology at Swansea Uni and she discovered that if all the households in Carmarthenshire recycled their used cooking oil, then on average 128,000 litres of used oil would become available – enough for our total current annual production!

Training courses

Our training courses have been running successfully for nearly three years now and participants always give very positive feedback for our unique training opportunity.

Veronica Sadler, President of Bio-Diesel of Arizona attended a recent training course. The Valley where Veronica lives has 3 million inhabitants and they have problems with air pollution. Veronica plans to make biodiesel for school buses

and their motto is "It shouldn't Hurt to Breathe".



Veronica from Arizona on a recent training course

Welsh Biodiesel Industries

We have been liaising with other biodiesel producers in Wales to establish the current state of the industry. We are the only producer selling direct to customers from the pump and we are the only producer that is a not for profit social enterprise. There are plans for some larger producers to come on board – these organisations are mainly geared to providing the refineries and haulage companies with biodiesel for blending.

We firmly believe that we have established a niche market for 100% biodiesel from the pump for people who want to make their own choices about what percentage biodiesel to use. We want to make quality biodiesel for people who really

care about the environment and their carbon footprint – it's people and the planet, not just profits that count.

We hope to sponsor 2 new filling stations once our new plant is up and running – let us know if you can think of a suitable location!

Recent news - the Fuel Factory in Rhondda Cynon Taf is planning to set up a filling station at Bryncynon and Ferndale - we'll keep you posted with their exciting developments!

We need to establish an infrastructure of local green filling stations that will help regenerate local communities. Thanks to George Monbiot for this phrase from his latest book, Heat:

"the people slithering around in vats of filth turning old chip fat into a motor fuel are doing a service to society" – we hope to welcome him to our greasy pit someday soon!

Installations



We have recently installed an evacuated tube solar hot water system as part of the refurbishments at the Kenfig National Nature Reserve.

Like many others, we have despaired of the Government grant scheme 'Low Carbon Buildings' programme and we are now able to offer solar hot water installations for approx £2,750 (3-4 person households) without grant assistance - no lengthy application process, no fuss – a quick and efficient service.

Whether its renewable energy grants or road fuel taxation... the government is the problem and not regrettably part of the solution...lip service and greenwash...what we need is more power to the people!

Forthcoming events

Look out for Adam and Joanna at Aberystwyth on May 19th and Bob, Jan and Joe at Royal Welsh Smallholders event the same weekend. We're also planning to attend the BGG this year <http://www.big-green-gathering.com/> and Bob and Rachel are looking forward to having another great time there as they did last year.

Thanks once again for all your support - have a wonderful summer!