

Uptown Biodiesel powers the Green Party's Battle Bus

The Green Party showed its support for the recycling of used cooking oil into biodiesel by refuelling their campaign bus at Uptown Oil - London's leading recycler, based in Southwark. MEP Jean Lambert and Peter Tatchell were aboard the bus on Saturday (30 May) as it stopped in at Uptown Biodiesel during a day of campaigning for the forthcoming Euro elections.

"We are really pleased with the growing political support we are getting" said Uptown MD Nigel Jewison. "We finally seem to be getting the message across that recycled bio-diesel has a role to play in greening the environment." Jean Lambert described the recycling of London's catering waste oil into sustainable biofuel as "An inspirational business".

Uptown Oil has been waging a quiet but persistent campaign to highlight the threat to the environment of Governments impending 20p hike in biodiesel duty.

"This increase in tax will damage the UK biodiesel sector and lead to greater air pollution as it becomes too expensive to make or use UK biodiesel, forcing consumers back onto fossil fuels. This is particularly damaging as recycled biodiesel is made from a waste product – used cooking oil from the catering and hospitality industry, it is not imported from overseas" Says Nigel.

The campaign by Uptown is gaining cross party support and they are optimistic that change is on the way. "One of the problems we have faced is gaining support from environmentalists." explained Nigel.

"Many people oppose biodiesel because it is produced from vegetable oil. The Governments approach to encourage biodiesel has forced food producing land into oil producing land. This is affecting food supplies in the developing world where the oil crops are grown. Our production process is based on collecting the waste oil from restaurants after the oil has been used to cook food first, so there is no such negative impact. Getting endorsement from the Green Party will help us get that message across."

"Of course we also welcome the fact that a normal Routemaster bus has stopped by to refuel", says Nigel, "Imagine the impact on the environment if all London's 8000 buses and 21000 taxis were to do the same, we can save millions of tonnes of CO2 each year just from running our transport in this way. Together we can make London's air a lot cleaner. If the Green Party can do this, so can others."

The next stage of the campaign is to engage local councils and parliament. The aim is to ensure that government's biofuels policy does not cripple UK sustainable biofuels, but addresses the shortcomings of damaging foreign biofuels grown in the developing world.







Notes for Editors

Uptown Oil is London's leading recycler of used cooking oil into low carbon, low pollution recycled biodiesel. Formed in 2007, the company aims to substantially cut carbon dioxide and diesel smoke in London through powering the city's buses and taxis with sustainable biodiesel. Biodiesel made from recycling used cooking oil is part of the Mayors campaign to reduce green house gas emissions in the city.

For media contacts and interviews, please contact Stuart@uptownoil.co.uk 07923931473 to arrange.