

Fuel of the Future

Creating renewable energy from waste

Recycling used cooking oil to produce a cleaner-burning, renewable fuel for cars and lorries is the eco-friendly way to go, says Pat Reynolds. And, thanks to the Rural Development Programme the Gilford based company is revving up for the future.

Biodiesel, or methyl esters to the boffins, is the fuel of the future says expert and enthusiast Pat Reynolds.

Pat's ambition was to build a biodiesel plant and introduce the fuel to the Northern Ireland market. The potential is huge, he points out, as biodiesel can be used in 90% of diesel cars. And, thanks to support from the Rural Development Programme, Pat and his two colleagues turned a good idea into a successful reality and PRS Environmental was established.

The **Business Creation and Development** element of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 provides support for existing micro-enterprises and for individuals wishing to set up a new micro-enterprise in a non-agricultural business area.

Funding enabled the small team of scientists and engineers at PRS Environmental to buy and

install an impressive plant, producing biodiesel from recycled vegetable oil.

Established for over two years, the plant at Kernan Technology Park in Gilford converts waste cooking oil from chip shops into an efficient, eco-friendly transport fuel. A cleaner-burning fuel than ordinary diesel, biodiesel is lower in CO2 emissions and as it is created from waste vegetable oil, it is carbon neutral.

Pat explains: "The grant got us up and running and we now have what we think is the best biodiesel plant in Ireland.

"We found the application process to be very simple. The advice was there throughout the whole process. The red tape was kept to a bare minimum. It was simple to apply and the whole process was very straightforward. I would certainly encourage others to investigate the support available under the Rural Development Programme and try to take their idea further."

PRS Environmental was funded by the EU LEADER+ initiative which was part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2001-2006.



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