

Biodiesel ranks #1 for Fleet alt fuel use

Jim Lane

In Missouri, North America's top fleets say number one choice for greening their fleet operations is biodiesel, according to a new 2016 Fleet Purchasing Outlook study conducted by the NTEA.

Survey data shows 18 percent of fleets use biodiesel now – up from 15 percent in 2015. And in terms of future alternative fuel interest, biodiesel also takes top honors, with more fleets planning to acquire or continue using biodiesel than any other alternative fuel option.

Doyle Sumrall, Managing Director of NTEA, commented, “The evolution of alternative fuel technologies is still triggering change for vocational truck specifications. However, general interest has dropped in recent years due to persistently low oil costs and will likely remain muted until prices rebound. Despite current challenges facing the alternative fuels movement, fleet interest in biodiesel has remained strong, actually increasing in 2016 as compared to the previous year.”

J.D. Schulte, Fleet Manager for the City of Moline, stated, “Here in Moline, air quality is paramount to our quality of life. We made the switch to clean, domestically produced plant-based biodiesel ten years ago, not only because it was a good choice for our fleet, but also because it was a good choice for our community. My advice to other fleet managers is, if you are conscious of and serious about air quality and looking for an easy and cost-effective solution to make a positive difference in your community, biodiesel is a natural choice.”

In the Gross Vehicle Weight Class 5-8 vehicles that account for 92 percent of on-road diesel / biodiesel fuel use, nearly 90 percent of the medium- and heavy-duty truck OEMs support the use of B20 biodiesel blends.