

OPINIONS

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Our Views

Weekend wrap-up

Going green on fuel, extending school building plan and keeping a historic name

Congratulations are in order to Palm Bay for being ahead of the pack on energy-efficient and environmentally friendly fuel.

It's the only city in the county using a biodiesel blend called in D20 in 141 of its heavy diesel vehicles, including older fire ladder trucks.

The 80 percent diesel and 20 percent soy or palm oil mix not only cuts down on gas emissions. It also saves Palm Bay 8 cents a gallon on an estimated 12,000 gallons a month, a smart idea in tight budget times.

At floridatoday.com, you can check out a video about Palm Bay's biodiesel use, and that of Brevard public schools, which started running its 130 buses on the same fuel 14 months ago.

Patrick Air Force Base, and some state and federal government agencies also are buying the 80-20 diesel blend for trucks, but the idea has yet to catch on big with the general public.

All show foresight in turning to renewable energy sources, which not only reduce pollution but also the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

More Brevard County cities and agencies should follow.



FLORIDA TODAY file

Fill 'er up. Brevard County school buses use a biodiesel fuel of 80 percent diesel and 20 percent soybeans.