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Homegrown Biodiesel The Way To Go?

The purpose of my experiment was to find out the cost effectiveness of making your own Biodiesel, compared to buying Petroleum Diesel. The first thing that I did in this experiment was to research the materials needed to make Biodiesel. Next, I found all of the costs for making homemade Biodiesel. After that, I had to do equations which would tell me the total cost. I then made some of the Biodiesel so that I could test the fuel mileage and put that into the equation. The last thing that I needed to do was to take the price of the byproducts of the feedstock, and subtract the price of the Biodiesel. I have learned from this experiment that it is quite simple to make Biodiesel; all that you need is a press, heat, feedstock, lye and methanol to cut the glycerin and adjust the viscosity. One thing that I found interesting, was that it does not take much of a crusher to make 540 gallons in twenty-four hours. Some producers however do not remove the glycerin, and use unleaded gasoline for viscosity, therefore creating SVO, (Straight Vegetable Oil) and their mileage increases. Plus for the SVO you can still squeeze your oil from plants. In conclusion, it is not more cost effective at this time to use Biodiesel than it is to use regular Diesel. But the SVO, which also runs in diesel engines, seems to compete very well, and both are much more environmentally friendly than PetroDiesel.