

Renewable Diesel

Fact Sheet

The construction industry relies heavily on diesel engines to power their machines. Diesel exhaust is a major contributor to the carcinogenic risk in Southern California. Therefore, Metro is working to implement best practices to mitigate its construction impact to human health.

Starting in 2018, Metro's Green Construction Policy will require the use of bulk renewable diesel fuel on its construction projects.

What is Renewable Diesel?

Renewable diesel is a petroleum-free substitute fuel for diesel engines. It is produced from 100% renewable and sustainable materials and is more efficient and cleaner burning than conventional petroleum. As a true drop-in fuel, no modification is needed to existing engines or infrastructure to begin using renewable diesel.

Renewable diesel is not biodiesel. Renewable diesel is chemically indistinguishable from petroleum diesel and meets the petroleum diesel standard ASTM D975. Renewable diesel is not associated with the common issues with biodiesel, such as the lack of long-term storage stability, blending restrictions and engine problems.

What are the impacts?

Renewable diesel performs better than conventional diesel. Renewable diesel has a higher cetane number, which results in a cleaner burn, and can result in reduced maintenance intervals and costs.

The price of renewable diesel is also competitive, oftentimes costing less than petroleum diesel. Fuel producers of renewable diesel accrue Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) and Renewable Identification Number (RIN) credits; therefore, the reduced cost of selling renewable diesel fuel is translated into measurable cost savings for the user.

The potential health and emission impacts of converting over to renewable diesel are substantial. According to the California Air Resources Board, using renewable diesel could reduce pollution by approximately 15% and 30% for nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM), respectively. It also has a carbon intensity of approximately 50-60 grams of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per megajoule (MJ) lower than petroleum diesel.

Proven Reliability

Renewable diesel has successfully replaced petroleum diesel at multiple jurisdictions and private companies, including:

- > Boeing
- > California Department of General Services
- > Caltrans
- > Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority
- > City of Beverly Hills
- > City of Carlsbad
- > City of Long Beach
- > City of Los Angeles
- > City of Oakland
- > City of San Diego
- > City of San Francisco
- > Google
- > UPS

The state of California is one of the largest renewable diesel markets in the United States, and the distribution network and infrastructure continue to grow. Please check with your local fuel distributor. There is a high probability that they also carry renewable diesel.



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