



## MICHIGAN SOYBEAN PROMOTION COMMITTEE

# a new release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Lansing Board of Water and Light Glide into Biodiesel Use**

The Lansing Board of Water and Light (LBWL) recently transitioned all diesel-powered equipment in their fleet to biodiesel. This includes 67 trucks and 72 pieces of construction equipment. They've chosen B20 (20% biodiesel fuel and 80% petroleum diesel) for various reasons. Joel McDowell, Planner/Supervisor of LBWL Fleet Services said, "In early 2004 we used 6700 gallons of biodiesel in our vehicles. After seeing and experiencing more pleasant vehicles to work on and to be around, along with other vehicle requirements, we decided to change our entire diesel fleet to B20 this summer." In total, LBWL maintains 497 units in their fleet.

McDowell notes, "Biodiesel fuel is more environmentally friendly and will help LBWL comply with vehicle requirements under the Energy Policy Act. This Act, passed by congress in 1992, requires utilities and others to include alternate fueled vehicles in their fleet purchases. Although the Act's focus is on light duty vehicles, it also grants credits for burning B20 in large vehicles and allows companies to use those credits to buy regularly fueled light duty vehicles, such as pickups and SUVs. The requirements of the Act are moving us to burn cleaner fuels and biodiesel is the easiest alternative fuel to work with to move us forward quickly to meet the Act's mandate. "

"The 6,700 gallons of B20 were just enough to qualify for credits to meet our needs for light duty vehicles," continued McDowell. "Now we are going beyond the Act's requirements to meet all our diesel fuel needs – about 116,000 gallons – through biodiesel. It will increase our fuel costs by about \$13,000 but will help the environment and the Lansing area's Clean Cities initiative."

"We're looking forward to tracking maintenance records on all these diesel units for miles per gallon, oil change intervals, air quality and more," continued McDowell. "Almost all our diesel equipment are fueled at the Penn Hazel complex where the B20 tanks are stored."

John Strickler, LBWL Communications Director noted, "It's obviously a cleaner burning fuel. Even though there's a slight increase in the fuel's price, we're expecting to increase our fuel economy and decrease maintenance expenses. We have had absolutely no problems with biodiesel and we've noticed it smells better in our immediate vicinity as it emits an odor some have described as similar to French fries or popcorn."

Further interview opportunities may be arranged with Mr. John Strickler, LBWL Communications Director at 517.702.6730 or Mr. Joel McDowell, LBWL Fleet Planner at 517.702.6727.

The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee encourages fleets and other diesel users to consider using this cleaner burning, renewable fuel called biodiesel. Michigan soybean farmers, through their soybean checkoff, have invested in research and promotion of biodiesel to schools, fleets, MDOT's, national and state parks, and others. For more information on biodiesel or the soybean checkoff, contact the MSPC at 989.652.3294 or via e-mail to [soyinfo@michigansoybean.org](mailto:soyinfo@michigansoybean.org).

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