

Press Release
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Memphis, Tennessee

Tennessee is a little greener! Milagro Biofuels of Memphis celebrates its Grand Opening today going online to produce 5 million gallons of soy based biodiesel, at a rate of 14,280 gallons a day. Their award winning biodiesel technology is automated, continuous and waterless producing no air emissions or effluent discharge, while insuring the highest quality product available. Milagro Biofuels is the first biodiesel plant in Memphis, located in Uptown in an 1870's cotton-seed mill which has been placed on the Registry for Historic Buildings.

Mayor Wharton, Congressman Harold Ford, Jr., Commissioner Matt Kisber of the Department of Economic and Community Development and Assistant Agriculture Commissioner Joe Gaines will be participating in the ceremony. About 200 guests are expected to attend including a varied contingency from state and local governments interested in promoting biodiesel use for many reasons including improved air quality, economic and rural development, and national security.

Company President, Diane Miller Mulloy notes, “Our company mission is to ***refine our future with biodiesel, one community at a time.***”

The owners of Milagro Biofuels are lifelong Tennessee residents who chose Tennessee for their first refinery because they want to make an impact on Tennessee communities. Other investors besides Mulloy, include Barbara and Gary Meloni of Memphis and Lehman-Roberts Company. The Melonis own the building where the plant is housed. Lehman-Roberts Company is an asphalt and mining company which has committed to converting its sizable company fleet to biodiesel.

Milagro Biofuels owners have partnered with fuel distributors who have made a longterm commitment to biodiesel in their communities, and can assist their retail, government and corporate customers in converting their fleets to biodiesel. Panther Oil Company of Jackson, one of Milagro Biofuels' distributors was actually the first distributor to make biodiesel available in West Tennessee. Willoughby Oil of Savannah will also be distributing biodiesel for Milagro Biofuels in Memphis and the surrounding area. Most distributors have previously had to obtain their product from out-of-state producers.

“The increased use of renewable fuels will have a significant impact in helping Tennessee reduce dependence on imported oil, benefit rural communities and our agricultural economy,” said Tennessee Economic and Community Development

Commissioner Matthew Kisber. “The Governor has aggressively taken steps to involve the state in promoting this important segment of our economy. As we move toward greater alternative fuel use we applaud forward-thinking companies, like Milagro Biofuels, on building its first biodiesel refinery in our state as well as creating new jobs in the Memphis area.”

Biodiesel is a clean, renewable, energy positive, alternative fuel produced by the transesterification of vegetable oils such as soybean. It can be used without engine modifications in any diesel vehicle including cars, buses, trucks, and off-road equipment. While Biodiesel contains no petroleum, it can be blended with diesel to create a blend known as B5, B10, or B20, named for the percentage of Biodiesel. Even in concentrations as low as 2%, biodiesel will dramatically decrease pollutant outputs and increase engine longevity. It is biodegradable, nontoxic, and free of sulfur and aromatics.

Milagro Biofuels is a member of the West Tennessee Clean Cities Coalition. The WTCCC is following a pattern established by the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE), and their first goal is to achieve “Clean Cities” designation from DOE.* The WTCCC Coordinator, Andrew Couch believes that West Tennessee is situated in one of the main arteries for our country’s distribution of goods. These goods are being distributed, in large part, by vehicles that could greatly benefit from the use of domestically produced, cleaner burning fuels like Biodiesel. Getting these fuels into our distribution infrastructure is one way that West Tennessee can begin leading our nation to a *safer, cleaner and more secure energy future.*

Milagro Biofuels is also a member of the National Biodiesel Board (www.NBB.org) and the Tennessee Oil Marketers Association.