



Waste Authority

Media Release

Making Fuel out of Waste Oil to Benefit Remote Communities

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The State's Waste Authority is working with local companies and innovators on an exciting project to turn waste oil into fuel designed to power mining operations and remote Western Australian communities.

The Waste Authority's Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme using funding from the levy on all waste that goes to landfill has enabled Blue Planet Energy to complete laboratory testing of LoNOX, a fuel suitable for static power generation plants.

Blue Planet Director, Cam Feast says the fuel incorporates a high percentage of used lube oil, a hazardous waste generated by the mining industry, other heavy industry and motor vehicles.

"With our technology we aim to turn that waste into a desirable product."

The Waste Authority has recently provided levy grant funding to field test LoNOX and to demonstrate that the process can be scaled to commercial volumes.

A Perth-based public listed company Tox Free Solutions Ltd, with excellent waste management credentials, has backed the tests and is providing a local, permitted site and sufficient waste oil stocks to enable Blue Planet Energy to carry out the test program," Mr Feast said.

"This will involve the production of some 75,000 litres of LoNOX to be combusted through a generator or generators on a comparative basis with diesel fuel.

"We are now looking at finding a test partner to assist us to prove the suitability of LoNOX for its intended use as a fuel to power diesel generators for electricity and production is only a short time away.

"This could provide a much needed long term solution to the issue of waste oil disposal for the Mining industry with both economic and environmental benefits to remote communities who currently rely on diesel.

"Construction of our mobile fuel production unit, currently testing onsite blending processes at volume, is now complete."

Blue Planet Energy has been developing and testing for engine performance, fuel consumption and exhaust emissions for more than two years.

The innovative team successfully ran a car across Australia in 2007, during the Panasonic World Solar Challenge. Since then it has been focused on further developing fuel blends to provide a cost effective, commercial fuels which also offer significant environmental benefits.

“Laboratory testing has supported power and emissions data collected in the field during the Solar Challenge showing little reduction in peak engine power when compared to diesel, and substantial improvements in emissions Mr Feast said.

“An inexpensive ‘bolt on’ fuel management system can be fitted to virtually any vehicle or fixed plant using LoNOX. This enables operators to retain the option to revert to diesel should supplies of LoNOX ever be disrupted.”

Mr Feast said power generation savings are potentially considerable, should diesel prices return to previous high levels and where heavy industry operates in remote locations such as the Pilbara.

“The wastes can be productively used in the areas where they are generated providing many economic and risk management benefits.

“However, the real benefits belong to the local environment because waste oil can safely and efficiently be converted into a useful resource.”

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