



Go Greased Lightning!

Fast food will soon be known as fast fuel, at least on Emory's campus.

Thanks to the idea and persistence of 2006 graduate Erik Fyfe, Emory will soon use biodiesel made from raw materials cooked up in the fry vats of local restaurants and the university's own kitchens to fuel much of Emory's bus fleet. There's little worry about a fuel shortage: Emory dining services alone produce about 5,500 gallons of used oil every month.

The new biodiesel program is based on Erik's senior honors thesis. His research analyzed the potential for a community-based biodiesel production program using a model developed by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE). Emory will partner with the local nonprofit SACE to launch a pilot program this summer.

In line with Emory's sustainability commitment, the SACE model takes waste at its source, converts it to biodiesel, and returns the useful fuel to the same market. Relying only on local, recycled waste sets the Emory program apart from other biodiesel projects that produce virgin oils on a large scale.

Contributing to a healthy environment was especially meaningful to Erik, an environmental studies major who grew up in Decatur.

Erik was inspired to pursue the research when gas prices spiked after Hurricane Katrina. "It was important to me to do research that would be both relevant and useful," he said. Part of his study included a survey of local restaurants to find out the availability of used cooking oil, as well as the restaurant's willingness to participate in the program.



Emory alum ('06) and Decatur-raised Erik Fyfe is on the fast (food) track to alternative fuel-friendly vehicles in the Clifton Corridor.

"From the beginning, Emory's dining and alternative transportation services have been interested in creating a sustainable biodiesel program," says Erik. "I've been surprised at how receptive people are to the idea. It's been really incredible to see it develop so quickly." Emory's biodiesel program is attracting the interest of other schools and businesses, including other Clifton Community Transportation Management Association institutions that are expected to contribute to the program as well.

Once online in the fall, about 45 percent of Emory's 53 bus shuttles will be fueled with biodiesel, making the university's entire fleet alternatively fueled (other buses already are using compressed natural gas or electricity).

How can you contribute? We're not equipped to take individual "donations," but there are many ways you can recycle materials at home (*see sidebar*). But you can benefit by patronizing the Emory shuttles, which are free to all—just don't come hungry!

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Intense interest in alternative fuels has driven biodiesel into the mainstream—and fired up the need to conserve resources and dollars.

Here are some easy steps to reduce, reuse and recycle in your home:

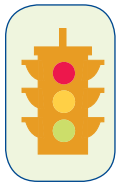
- Used cooking oil and grease can clog pipes and sewer lines worse than your arteries. The slick stuff should be stored in a can, then put in the trash.
- For the do-it-yourselfer, old motor oil and filters can often be recycled or disposed of at your local automotive shop.
- Can't decide? Choose products with the least amount of packaging.
- Use a little elbow grease instead of harsh cleaning products.
- Take your coffee to go in a reusable mug.
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper towels.
- Don't throw it out. Sell or donate unwanted items.
- Make your own fertilizer—compost yard trimmings and fresh food scraps.
- Don't toss that cell phone! Most electronic products contain materials that are recyclable, but also have toxic elements that are hazardous if not disposed of properly. Keep an eye out for electronics recycling days offered by Emory and DeKalb County.

Save This Date!

Clifton Community Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 6–8 p.m.

For more information visit,
www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.

Every Second Counts



It's not your imagination.

Traffic lights sometimes do blink to a rhythm not quite in synch with the flow of traffic—particularly in the direction you're heading.

But beginning in April, you likely noticed a positive change in traffic patterns thanks to a collaboration between Emory and DeKalb County that has significantly reduced travel time within six major corridors in the Clifton community.

In coordination with the county, Emory engaged the consulting services of GCA, Inc. to develop and implement new timing plans for 33 signals within an area bounded

by Lavista Road on the north, Clairmont Road on the east, North Decatur Road to the south and Briarcliff Road on the west.

The consultants conducted travel time studies on typical weekdays during three peak times (morning, noon and afternoon). Based on the findings, the consultants worked with the county to implement new signal plans and install equipment upgrades. As a result, a comparison study in April revealed significant overall improvements:

- 31 percent reduction in average travel time
- 40 percent increase in average trip speed
- 55 percent reduction in average delay time
- 55 percent reduction in average stops

For example, afternoon peak travel time

eastbound between the intersection of North Decatur/Haygood and North Decatur/Webster was shaved by nearly five minutes—as was travel time southbound on Clifton Road between Briarcliff and North Decatur.

The consultants estimated that motorists traveling in the six corridors during these peak times will save nearly 327,000 hours and about 196,000 gallons of gas each year. Reducing idling time and acceleration cycles also decreases the release of air pollutants.

Emory and DeKalb County will continue to work together to monitor travel flow and make quick adjustments as needed.

Have you noticed a difference? Please let us know by going to the Clifton Community Partnership Web site at: www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.

Emory Among "Best Workplaces For Commuters"

Emory was named one of the "Best Workplaces for Commuters" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its first annual list of notable schools. Emory joins 72 institutions of higher education that earned this designation as environmental leaders improving air quality, saving energy and reducing traffic congestion in their communities. Emory first made the EPA's list of workplaces in 2001.

Share Your Ideas

The Clifton Community Partnership has launched a new, interactive Web site to generate dialogue, share ideas and information, and post notices of upcoming events and projects. The Web site provides a framework for all stakeholders to work together to improve the quality of life in the area. Visit the Web site at www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.

The *Community Update* is a monthly newsletter published by the Emory University Office of Governmental and Community Affairs to share information and ideas among stakeholders working to improve the quality of life in the Clifton community. Readers' story ideas are welcomed!

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