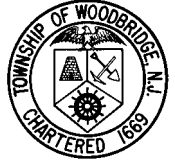


# NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## ***Woodbridge Township Continues Eco-Friendly Programs with Implementation of BioDiesel Fuel to Power Municipal Vehicles***

***Township's Environmental & Energy-Saving Inventory Includes... Energy-Saving Fluorescent Lighting... Installation of Solar Panels at Township Buildings... 12 Hybrid Vehicles... Recycling & Convenience Center... Tree Replacement Program...***

**WOODBIDGE** – Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that Woodbridge Township continues to lead the way in environmental and energy-saving programs with the introduction of energy efficient biodiesel fuels to power municipal vehicles. The bio-diesel fuel program is part of an overall, Township-wide environmentally-friendly strategy to implement energy-saving initiatives geared to maximize savings by reducing future costs while working to protect the environment.

In announcing the implementation of the Township's biodiesel fuel program, Mayor McCormac noted that Township Departments are working with the Woodbridge Environmental Commission to implement energy-saving initiatives that can be easily accomplished by Township residents, businesses and municipal facilities. The initiatives include:

- Replacing standard light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs;
- Exploring the potential of installing high-efficiency, energy producing solar panels at the Woodbridge Community Center and other municipal facilities;
- Continued purchase of energy-saving, fuel efficient hybrid vehicles to supplement the municipal fleet;
- Expansion of the Public Works recycling program to include the disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs, electronics and computers;
- Opening the recycling and bulk waste "convenience center" at the Public Works facility in Keasbey; and
- Municipal tree replacement program in parks and municipal properties.

"I am pleased to announce that Woodbridge Township recognizes the need to develop and incorporate environmental-friendly and energy-saving solutions to every day government operations and of our

obligation to communicate the environmental mission to our residents,” Mayor McCormac said. “The biodiesel fuel program is a practical, cost-effective and energy efficient way to power Township vehicles while conserving non-renewable petroleum diesel.”

Mayor McCormac said that the Township’s biodiesel fuel program was jump-started with a \$65,500 grant from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The grant allowed the Township’s Department of Public Works to install an above-ground biodiesel fuel tank and to establish an emissions monitoring program to measure the drop in hydrocarbon emissions from vehicles fueled with biodiesel.

The Department of Public Works selected six municipal vehicles (small trucks and SUV’s), two Ford International dump trucks, and two Crane Carrier garbage trucks for the biodiesel pilot program. The vehicles will be monitored for emissions (biodiesel vs. conventional diesel fuel emissions), fuel consumption, mileage per gallon and overall performance during a four-month period. Additionally, Public Works will receive rebates on the purchase of biodiesel fuel through state and county rebate programs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, biodiesel fuel is a domestically produced, clean-burning, renewable substitute for petroleum diesel. Studies have determined that biodiesel increases energy security, improves public health and the environment, and provides safety benefits. Compared to using petroleum diesel, using biodiesel in a conventional diesel engine substantially reduces emissions of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and other greenhouse gas emissions.

Mayor McCormac noted that the Township is pursuing other environmental initiatives, including the installation of energy-producing solar panels at the Community Center and municipal facilities. The proposed pilot project is geared to save long-term energy costs through the implementation of self-sustaining solar energy to provide a portion of the power needs for municipal facilities. Additionally, the Township purchased 12 environmentally-friendly Ford Escape hybrid vehicles to supplement the municipal fleet. The 2007 Ford Escape hybrids cost \$25,576 each and are estimated by the manufacturer to get over 36 miles per gallon. The Township also reduced the purchase price of the Hybrid vehicles by more than \$48,000 through state and county rebates totaling more than \$4,000 per vehicle.

Woodbridge Municipal Council President Brenda Yori-Velasco said, “The Council is delighted that Woodbridge is in the forefront of environmentally-friendly and energy-saving initiatives geared to save taxpayers dollars, increase energy efficiency in municipal government operations and protect the environment. The biodiesel fuel program is a win-win for the Township, our residents and the environment.”

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