

Mid Western Regional Authority converting vehicles to run on pure plant oil, Ireland

There was a presentation of the Bio-NETT project to the Mid Western Regional Authority (MWRA) by TEA, in 2006. The MWRA represents 4 local authorities: North Tipperary County Council, Limerick County Council, Limerick City Council, and Clare City County.

The MWRA sought to develop, as a pilot project, the conversion of up to 12 vehicles (averaging 3 per county council) to run on pure plant oil. Pure plant oil was the only type of biofuels available in this area at the time the pilot project was discussed.

Next action from TEA was to carry out feasibility study of running vehicles in pure plant oil (to determine costs of conversions, fuel storage of fuel mainly), as this type of biofuels requires a conversion of a diesel engine. Consequently, the next step was to identify which vehicles of the 4 local authorities' fleets were suitable for this conversion. As all 4 local authorities was still agreeing to trial pure plant oil at this stage, a tender was then issued in June 2007 to find suppliers both for the vehicles conversions kits and the PPO.

As a result, 3 vehicles on average per local authorities have already being converted and are in the process of being converted to run on PPO. Only Clare County Council did not pursue the project because the PPO supplier selected for the project is too remote for this council.

This pilot project as a whole shows a very good implementation of the Bio-NETT objectives as it results in more local authorities taking actions to start using biofuels. Besides, the fact that those councils were grouped up and benefited from the previous experience of vehicle conversion at Cork City Council demonstrates that local authorities are genuine key drivers.

The project was initiated when Bio-NETT started, and TEA has provided a significant technical support for its implementation.

For more details on the actual realisation of this project, please see of Biofuels Handbook: Best Practice Tools and Pilot Project, "PPO for Mid Western Regional Authority vehicle fleets"