

Van Wert Biofuels Provide Alternative Energies

Tony Warnecke, owner of Van Wert Biofuels Inc. in Vision Park, looks to produce bio-diesel fuel here in our area. Warnecke has supervised the creation of four different bio-diesel plants, and has turned his attention to owning his own plant here in Van Wert.

Van Wert was an easy choice to start a bio-diesel plant for this Delphos native. “We had access to a good building. Also, the four trucking fleets combined with U.S. 30 creates a lot of truck traffic,” said Warnecke. The facilities will allow the creation of bio-diesel fuel, and also house their own research and development department.

Currently bio-diesel is produced from many different feed stock sources, including bean and corn oils. But, the prices of current bio-fuels are still high. “We can’t keep using our current oils, prices are too high and they are in short supply,” said Warnecke. The research and development teams at V.W. Biofuels will be looking to branch out into cheaper feed stock sources. They are currently researching algae as a source for bio-diesel, and may expand their operations to grow algae in the future.

Warnecke will be adding 10 to 12 jobs within a year to help produce his alternative energy. They will begin by creating bio-diesel from pig fat. “Pig fat is a stable feed stock and we can easily convert this into fuel,” said Warnecke. The use of pig fat will also allow them to hone their production, allowing easier transitions to different kinds of fuels in the future.

V.W. Biofuels will to create 7,000 gallons of bio-diesel per year. The production of bio-diesel creates byproducts that are sold for an additional profit. “Glycerin is a byproduct of our fuel, we can sell that for 20 cents a pound,” said Warnecke.

Production at the plant should begin within the next month. This may ease the financial burdens for local trucking fleets. “Something needs to be done to help our fleets with the rising prices of fuel,” said Warnecke.



Caption for Picture: The reactor and storage tanks wait to produce bio-diesel outside of the production plant.