

18 May 2011



BANZ MEDIA STATEMENT

Nelson breathes easy as clean green Biogold™ Fuel arrives

A new biodiesel distribution facility announced today for the upper South Island gives the region's fuel users a 'clean, green, sustainable' alternative to mainstream fuels, says the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ).

With the Government focussed on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050, and the Regional Council working towards the delivery of improved air quality, BANZ executive officer Brian Cox said he welcomed the announcement that would make biodiesel more available to a greater number of users in the Nelson Region.

"The new distribution facility announced by Biodiesel New Zealand is a good fit with the positive environmental attitude evident in Nelson. We have seen the same thing happen in Queenstown and I'm confident that Nelson will experience the same success."

"If New Zealand is serious about cutting emissions from transport, biofuel needs to take centre stage in our everyday driving," said Mr Cox. "This distribution hub makes the fuel available to a great number of new users. Not only does it have positive outcomes for the local environment, the increased visibility of biofuels gives credence to the 'clean, green' image New Zealand likes to sell overseas", said Mr Cox. "What could be better for Nelson than green tourism, green fishing and green trucking", he said.

Mr Cox added that while the biofuels industry in New Zealand was small it was benefitting from the support of the Government's Biodiesel Grant Scheme. The Scheme is an essential component of cementing this industry into place said Mr Cox. I'm pleased to say that as in most other countries around the world the New Zealand Government is supporting the development of the biofuels industry. The industry is performing well as demand continues to grow. It is also providing additional employment, economic growth and for some feedstocks uses material that would otherwise go to landfills."

Adopting biofuels could benefit the New Zealand economy as well as the environment, said Mr Cox. Increasingly, in the international arena biofuels were being viewed as the lead-in or pre-cursor to an even bigger opportunity - that of the bio products industry (biochemicals and biomaterials from forestry and waste). Some commentators were hailing it the *future bio-era* or *bioeconomy*.

“As a country, with our vast bio resources, our skilled workforce and our reputation for being ‘clean and green’, we are well placed to turn our growing biofuels sector into something bigger – a world scale ‘hub’ for all things bio. The current Government biodiesel initiative is providing a foundation for this future growth.”

“Well done to Biodiesel NZ and to the local region for its support of this initiative. This move takes us one step closer to a bio-future.”

Ends

Notes to Editors

The New Zealand Bioenergy Strategy <http://www.bioenergy.org.nz/NZBioenergyStrategy2010.pdf> has a target of 25% of national energy from Bioenergy (including 30% of transport fuel) by 2040.

A February 2011 review of the Biodiesel Grant Scheme confirms the growth potential of New Zealand’s biofuel sector. The report is available here - <http://www.liquidbiofuels.org.nz/documents/Home/Biodiesel-Grants-Scheme-Progress-Report.pdf>.

Media enquiries contact:

Brian Cox
Executive Officer
Bioenergy Association of New Zealand
Brian.cox@bioenergy.org.nz
04 3853359
0274 771048

Or
Kevin Snowdon
Convener
BANZ Liquid Biofuels Interest Group
kevin.snowdon@vertichem.com
+64 27 4949231
+64 9 6321000

About the Bioenergy Association of New Zealand (BANZ)

BANZ was established in 2001 to promote and coordinate the development of a bioenergy industry in New Zealand. BANZ provides a central focus point for liaison with Government agencies, the dissemination of information amongst the industry and long-term positioning of bioenergy into New Zealand's energy system. Members include anyone with a commercial interest in bioenergy - sawmillers, wood processors, energy suppliers, energy researchers, consultants, manufacturers and investors.

Further information about BANZ and Liquid Biofuels is available here:

- www.bioenergy.org.nz
- www.liquidbiofuels.org.nz