



Radnor Township School District

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MEDIA RELEASE

RTSD Springs Forward with Biodiesel Fueled Buses

Around this time of year, most of us look around our houses and start the process of spring cleaning. The Radnor Township School District is doing its own version of spring cleaning – cleaning up the environment. On Friday, Radnor will switch its school bus fleet to biodiesel, a cleaner-burning, renewable diesel fuel made from vegetable oils and rendering wastes instead of petroleum.

At a lunchtime ceremony on Friday, Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, will present district officials with a giant check. The \$40,000 in funding is a grant that the Radnor Township School District was awarded to cover any additional cost for this premium fuel through the next school year, making the switch cost neutral. Immediately after the check presentation, the first school bus will be ceremoniously fueled up with the biodiesel. District officials and students from Radnor's high, middle and elementary schools will also attend the event.



PA-DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty will present a \$40,000 grant check to the Radnor Township School District Friday at 12:30 p.m.

In addition to reducing Radnor's reliance on foreign petroleum by 20%, the biodiesel blend will improve air quality for the 4,400 students who ride the buses and for township residents. Running the district's 64 vehicles on the renewable fuel will result in the following emissions reductions each year: particulate matter by 12%, unburned hydrocarbons by 20%, carbon monoxide by 12%, sulfur dioxide by 20%, and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, by 16%.

"Radnor is committed to the health of our students and community, and using biodiesel is a logical place to improve our environment," said Burt Blackburn, Radnor's Director of Transportation, who also instituted a "no-idling" practice for buses picking up students to further help create a clean atmosphere for Radnor students and residents. "The funding from the Department of Environmental Protection and the technical support from our biodiesel supplier, The Energy Cooperative, made this an easy switch for us."

Biodiesel is different than ethanol, which is made from corn and used in gasoline vehicles and has different environmental properties. Biodiesel can be used as a pure fuel, known as B100, or blended with conventional petroleum-based diesel. Radnor will be using a B20 blend: 20% biodiesel and 80% conventional diesel.

"Biodiesel is a fantastic way to reduce greenhouse gases, reduce harmful tailpipe emissions, improve energy security, and increase energy independence," explained Emily Bockian Landsburg, Manager of Business Development for The Energy Cooperative. "Here at The Energy Cooperative, we're



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constantly working to maximize those benefits by sourcing the biodiesel as locally as possible from domestic vegetable oils, recycled cooking oils, or rendering wastes.”

Radnor’s environmental initiatives don’t end when the kids get off the school bus. Radnor Elementary School, the first green public school in the state, was opened in 2001. This past September, Radnor opened the doors to its newest school, Radnor Middle School, which has geothermal wells, vegetative roofing and many other green features. And of course, this positive school environment extends into the curriculum as well. All the township schools have classes that promote conservation and ecological responsibility.

A press conference with Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty announcing Radnor’s switch to biodiesel will take place on Friday, April 4, at 12:30 p.m. at the Radnor Transportation Center located at 230 King of Prussia Rd in Radnor, PA. Media is invited to take B-Roll of local dignitaries fueling up the first bus with biodiesel immediately following remarks and check presentation.

ABOUT RADNOR TOWNSHIP

Radnor Township, founded in 1682, is located 13 miles west of Philadelphia and comprises 30,000 people. Radnor Township School District covers nearly 14 square miles and includes St. Davids and parts of Wayne, Rosemont, Bryn Mawr, Villanova, Ithan, Newtown Square and Radnor. The school system, which serves a diverse, multicultural population, includes three elementary, one middle and one high school.

ABOUT THE ENERGY COOPERATIVE:

Founded in 1979, THE ENERGY COOPERATIVE is a nonprofit member-owned cooperative providing biodiesel, home heating oil, and renewable electricity to households, businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. The Cooperative offers the best value and service to its customers by bringing together the buying power of thousands of members. To learn more about The Energy Cooperative call 215-413-2122 or log on to www.theEnergy.coop.