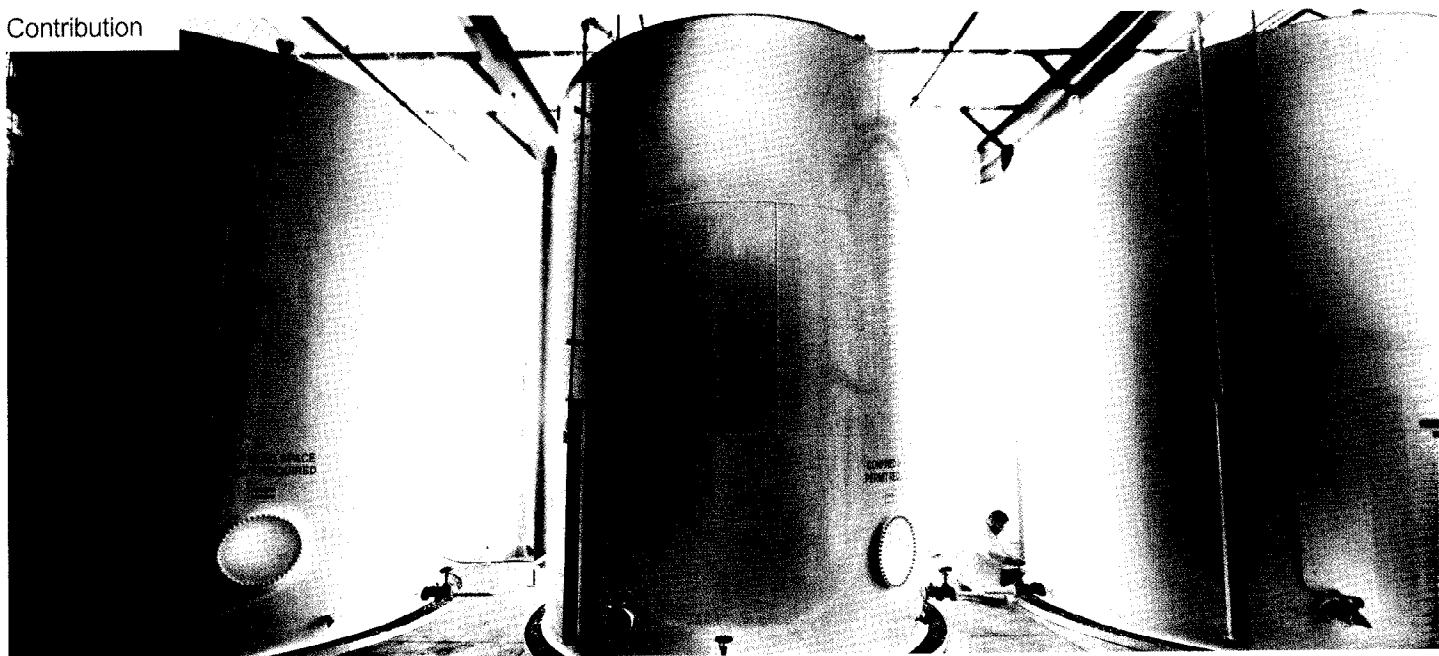


Contribution



SunPower BioDiesel is located in Cumberland, Wis.

Gearing Up for Sustainable Practices in the New Administration

Biodiesel appears to have a secure place in President Barack Obama's energy policy. However, sustainable production practices will remain the key to consumer acceptance.

Achieving energy independence is a top initiative for the Barack Obama administration, and biodiesel appears to be part of the solution. In an Aug. 4, 2008, campaign speech in Lansing, Mich., Obama committed to "invest federal resources, including tax incentives and government contracts, into developing next-generation biofuels." He also specifically mentioned biodiesel as a solution in speeches and debates throughout the presidential campaign. He even visited a biodiesel plant in Pennsylvania one day after being con-

firmed as the Democratic party's presidential candidate.

Obama is clearly a fan of biodiesel, but not at the expense of the environment. His official "New Energy for America" plan contains a sustainability provision to "ensure that increased biofuels production does not come at the expense of environmental conservation."

In the past year, sustainable energy sources have taken center stage around the world and will become even more important as part of the energy solution in the new administration. What does sustainability mean for the

biodiesel industry? It can mean locally grown feedstocks, local and regional distribution, and environmentally friendly biodiesel production.

A Sustainable Enterprise

SunPower BioDiesel of Cumberland, Wis., could be the poster child for sustainable practices. Owned by Ron and Mark Ruppel and operated by Rick Wuorenma, SunPower's mission is to serve the local community by providing jobs, creating a market for oilseed crops, and supplying renewable, sustainable

fuel to local markets. "The owners of SunPower BioDiesel have been in Cumberland for generations," Wuorenma says. "In addition to the biodiesel plant, the Ruppels are local farmers and manufacturers of durable goods. In each of their businesses, they look for ways to utilize environmentally friendly practices, such as factory heating stoves that burn cherry pits and waste corn collected from cleaning silos."

With a 3 MMgy capacity, the SunPower plant utilizes mostly locally grown canola and sunflower oil. Canola works well in Wisconsin because it thrives as

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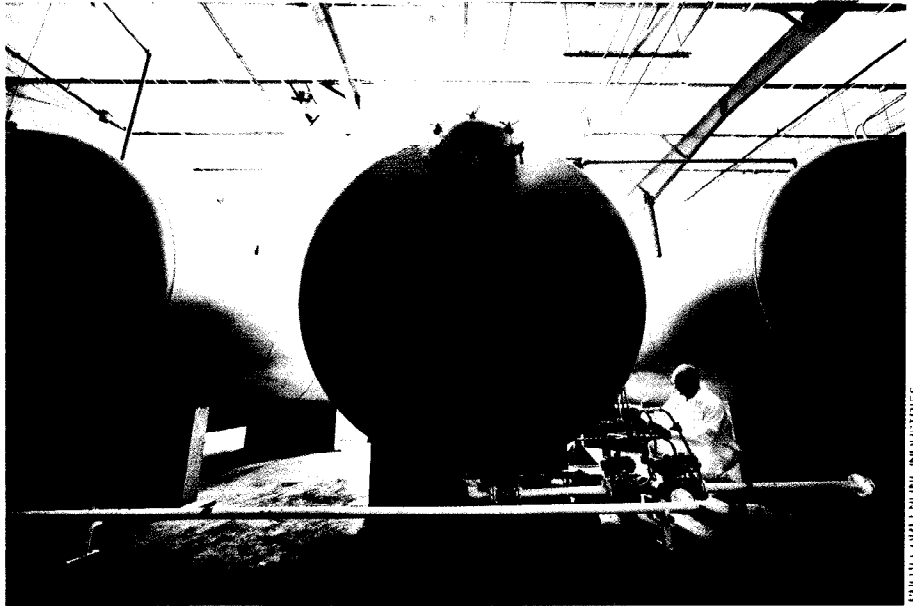
Bob Horning

1-803-642-2209

RobertHorning@usfueltechinc.com

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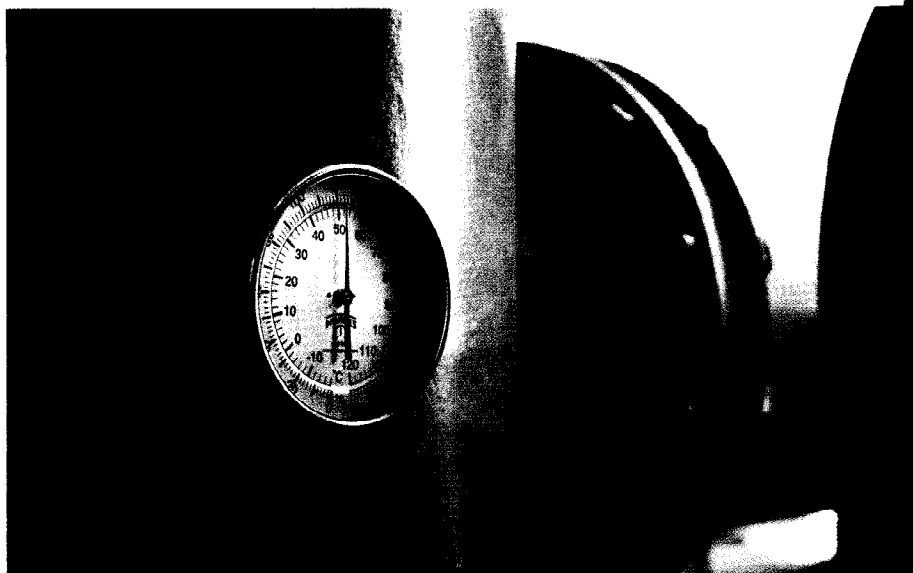
A SunPower BioDiesel employee checks inventory at the Cumberland, Wis.-based plant.

2012.

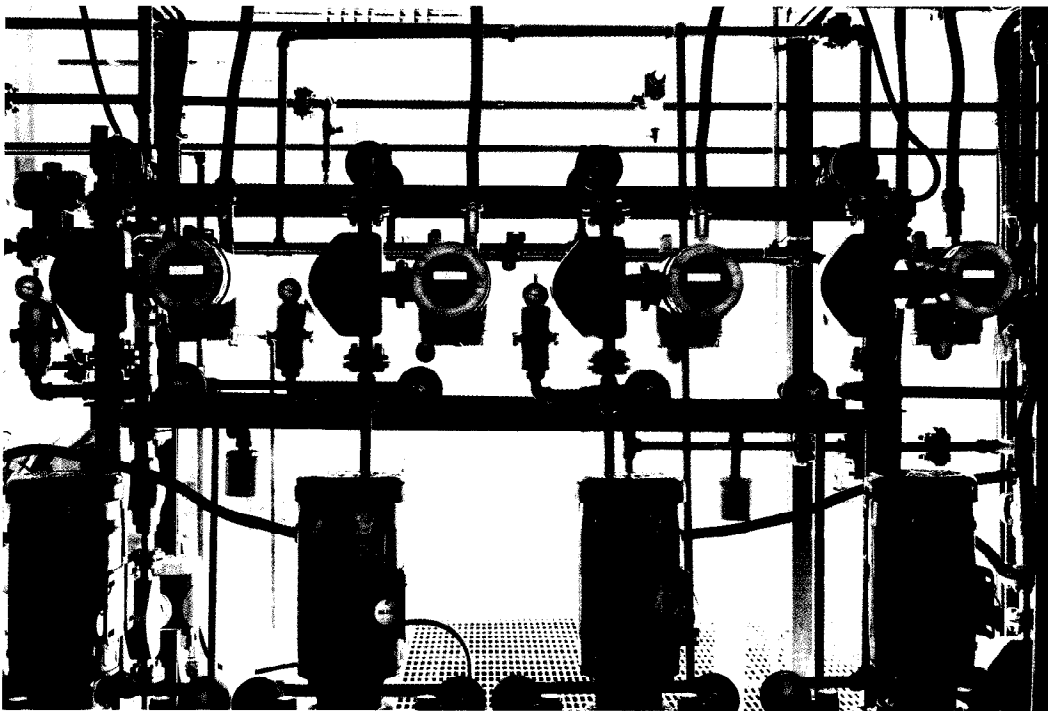
Increasing usage of renewable fuels in the U.S. will also decrease greenhouse gas emissions including carbon dioxide fossil fuel emissions that the U.S. EPA links to climate change. Obama's nomination for Energy Secretary, physicist and Nobel Prize winner Steven Chu, clearly demonstrates his belief that climate change poses a major threat. As director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory since 2004, Chu has pushed for research for al-

ternative energy as a way to combat global warming. In addition, Obama's energy plan calls for "an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050." His program rewards companies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by allowing them to sell emissions credits, measured in tons, to industries that do not.

**Green Goals,
Community Focus**



A pressure gauge at SunPower BioDiesel's Cumberland, Wis., facility



A row of gauges at SunPower BioDiesel

PHOTO: GREENLINE INDUSTRIES

a cold weather crop and the resulting biodiesel has higher cold-flow properties. Distribution of the finished product is limited to a 200-mile radius, which includes nearby Minnesota. SunPower benefits from the 2 percent mandate in that state and Minnesota benefits from having another ASTM-quality biodiesel supplier nearby.

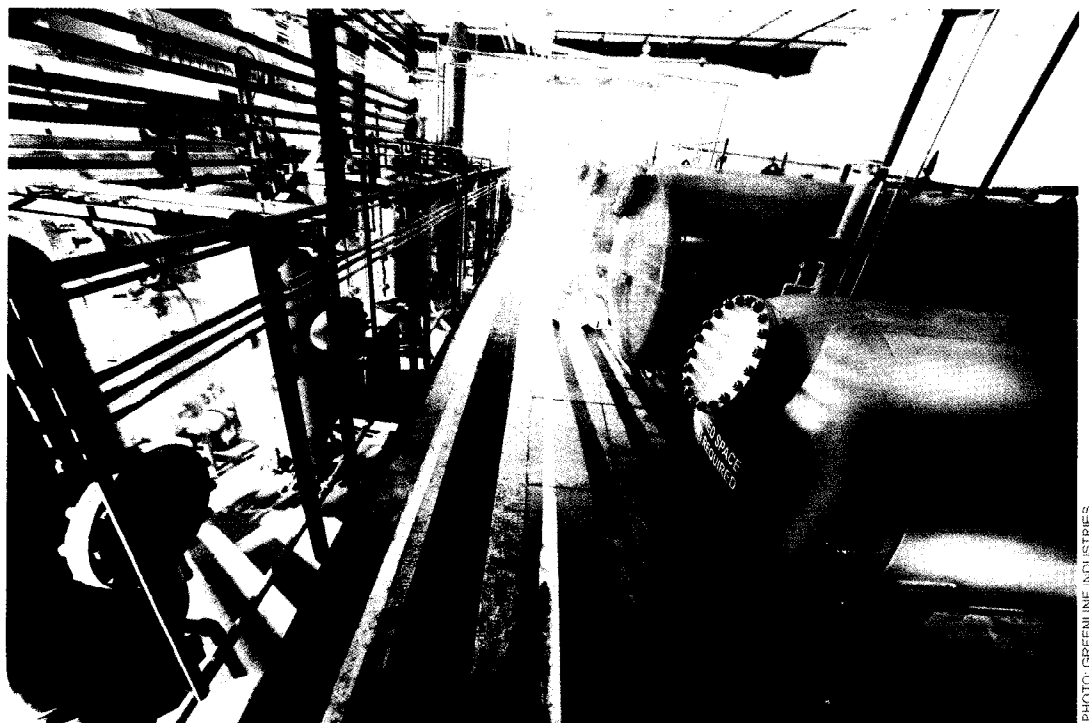
State mandates and federal tax incentives have fueled growth of the biodiesel industry from 5 million gallons sold in the U.S. in 2001 to 250 million in 2006, a 4,900 percent increase in five years. According to an Oil Price Information Service article titled "Biofuels See 'Win-Win' Under Obama, Democratic Victory," Obama supports continuing federal tax incentives for renewable energy and keeping or increasing the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act Renewable Fuels Standard quotas. The RFS requires U.S. fuel producers to blend renewable fuels into

petroleum-based transportation fuel and heating oil. In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi, then-U.S. Sen. Obama stated his support for expanding the RFS just before the EISA was passed in December 2007.

Other industry analysts also recognize the strength that Obama and the new Congress will have in continuing RFS support.

In the OPIS article an analyst from The Stanford Group was quoted as saying "President-Elect Obama and strengthened Democratic Party majorities in Congress is a win-win for ethanol and the biofuels industry. The push-back against the renewable fuels standard and other support mechanisms has come mainly from Republicans in Congress..." Biodiesel benefits from quieting the critics of RFS even though most of the push-back pertains to ethanol, which makes up the majority of the 15 billion gallons of renewable fuel mandated in 2012, ramping up to 36 billion by 2022. As far as biodiesel's portion of the mandate goes, the RFS requires U.S. fuel producers to use at least 500 million gallons of biomass-based diesel in 2009, increasing to 1 billion gallons by



A SunPower BioDiesel employee inspects tanks.

PHOTO: GREENLINE INDUSTRIES

Entrepreneurs such as the Ruppels will help the Obama administration meet policy goals of producing sustainable, renewable energy in the U.S.

Another goal of the new administration is to provide green jobs. Community-based biodiesel producers such as SunPower will provide many of those jobs across the U.S. "Even though SunPower Biodiesel is small, it provides nine career-challenging engineering and manufacturing jobs in a rural area," Wuorenma says. "Cumberland is the land of opportunity for small-scale farming, small businesses and tourism. Our employees are able to stay connected to what rural America is all about and pursue careers in the new green economy."

Reducing the environmental impact of biodiesel production is also important to SunPower. The Ruppels and Wuorenma chose a waterless biodiesel process. The environmentally friendly nature of the waterless biodiesel process means no toxic waste is produced and no water is used in the polishing stage. Some biodiesel processes require up to one gallon of water to polish every gallon of biodiesel. With biodiesel production equipment and waterless technology provided by Larkspur, Calif.-based Greenline Industries, SunPower uses a resin-based polishing system. The Greenline biodiesel platform allows SunPower to produce biodiesel in smaller quantities and run at half or full capacity as market-demand increases or decreases. "Ron and Mark Ruppel represent the new generation of entrepreneurs who take into account renewable energy solutions for sustainability of their own businesses and the community surrounding them," says Greenline Chairman Mitchell Brown.

Entrepreneurs such as the Ruppels will help the Obama administration meet policy goals of producing sustainable, renewable energy in the U.S. Benefits of

Obama's green policies include new jobs, new markets for oilseed crops, and clean burning, sustainable biodiesel for use as heating oil and in our nation's trucks, fleets and farming equipment. In his Lansing, Mich., speech, dubbed the "Obama Energy Speech," Obama went on to challenge the audience, "We can keep making small, piece-meal investments in renewable energy and keep sending billions of our hard-earned dollars to oil company executives and Middle Eastern dictators... We can watch other countries create

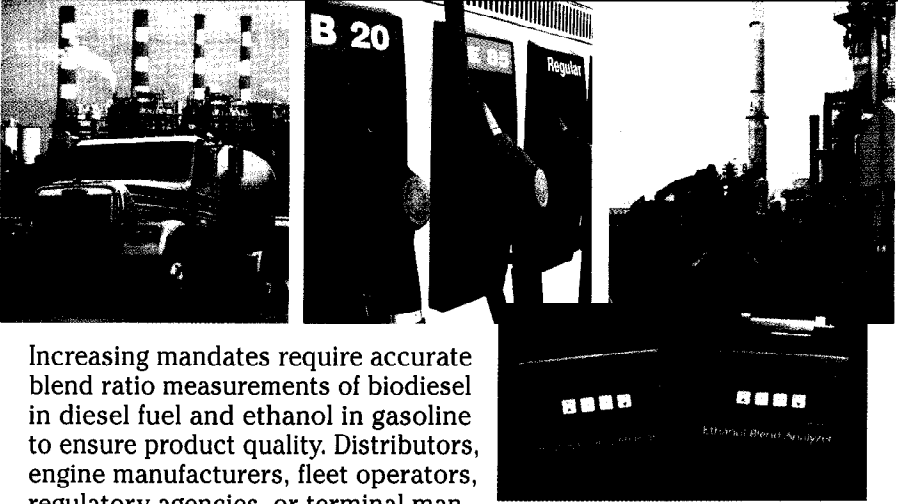
the industries and the jobs that will fuel our future, and leave our children a planet that grows more dangerous and unlivable by the day. Or we can choose another future."

With sustainable feedstocks, manufacturing processes and distribution methods, biodiesel is poised and ready to be part of that future. ■

Sharon Bell is a public relations professional representing clients in the biodiesel industry. Reach her at sharonb@shriverproductions.com or (972) 352-8698.

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