

Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative (VCBC)

Membership Application and Agreement

This form represents an agreement between the Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative ("*us*") and "*you*." Your email, phone and address are for coop contact use only and will not be shared or released to anyone else.

Name: _____ Member #: _____

Names of Other Family Members: _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Estimated Monthly Use: B100 (gal) _____

Vehicles or Equipment using Biodiesel:

Make: _____ Model _____ Engine _____ Year _____

Make: _____ Model _____ Engine _____ Year _____

Make: _____ Model _____ Engine _____ Year _____

Make: _____ Model _____ Engine _____ Year _____

Initial amount of membership fees paid \$ _____ Annual Dues (\$50, due April 1 each year)
\$ _____ Fueling Deposit (\$250)

Fuel pre-purchase payment (100 gallons, \$350-400) is additional and will be collected from members as needed.

A tax deductible donation to the SOCALBUG Trailer Fund is strongly encouraged.

This non-profit 501c3 is providing the fueling trailer to the co-op for only the cost of insurance. We need to provide the donations to cover the purchase cost of a trailer to keep this program operational. Give what you can and encourage others to donate to this worthy cause. Make checks to socalbug.org and memo note "Ventura trailer fund"

MEMBER-OWNED ORGANIZATION

The Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative is a member owned organization. Each member is entitled to all the rights and benefits of membership including but not limited to: the right to purchase fuel that is renewable, the right to lower emissions, the right to fuel from local sources, and the right to be informed on local biodiesel issues. As a member, you are also a member of a qualified biodiesel users group entitled to purchase clean burning, renewable biodiesel blends from the biodiesel distributors in Southern California and through reciprocity agreements with other biodiesel cooperatives and users groups in California.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

There is only one class of membership for the Cooperative. All Members of the co-op have full voting rights. Only members of the co-op who have paid a \$250 fuel deposit may obtain fuel from the co-op facility. Fueling members are also required to be trained in using the fueling facility before accessing the fuel. Starting April 1, 2008 and for each year thereafter, all members are required to pay annual renewal dues, in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors, to maintain their membership. This amount is currently \$50.00 for all members and \$100.00 for business fueling use members. Members who join after April 1 of each year will pay a pro-rated due in the amount of \$4.00 (\$8.00 for Business) per month. Business use is defined as using the Coop resources for commercial or industrial enterprise.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

The process to become and remain a VCBC member is as follows:

A VCBC Application must be completed and signed, and given to the Cooperative with a membership fee of not less than \$50.00. If a prospective member wants to receive fueling privilege, the member must pay a \$250 deposit (refundable) The cooperative will issue the member a receipt indicating the level of membership and the amount paid, with the member’s name. The Board of Directors will have discretion to approve applications for membership and to also disapprove applications for membership.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS

The Cooperative Principles will be followed, to the fullest extent possible. All members will receive the periodic publications and communications disseminated by the Cooperative.

Any members can serve on the Board of Directors, or serve on committees or participate in co-op activities. Only members who have paid the \$250 deposit have fueling privilege.

Any member may inspect the books and records or obtain membership lists.

The fueling membership ability is not transferable without Board Approval. Individual members of the same family unit living at the same address can apply for and receive one family membership.

The coop will provide the fuel to members at cost. Each fueling member will pre-purchase 100 gallons of fuel and be draw from that amount. When the balance is used up the member will again pre-purchase another 100 gallon unit. Each pre-purchase will be made at the current prevailing fuel cost.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCLOSURE:

It is the member's responsibility to maintain accurate accounting of their fuel balance and of any fuel drawn from distribution. When their balance is used up, the member will be required to purchase an additional 100 gallon unit of fuel. Each member is required to abide by the coop bylaws regarding accountability and responsibility. Each member will provide the coop with any requested information regarding the performance of biodiesel or any issues that the member observes while using the fuel. This information is also critical to allow the coop to complete the required quarterly reports to the CA Department of Measurement Standards. If you change or add vehicles covered under your membership agreement you should contact Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative with the Make, Model and Year of the vehicle. As a member, you are aware that your use of biodiesel is at your own risk and thus will not hold the coop liable for any fuel-related issues.

All information contained in this Membership Agreement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. I give permission to post my Name and Membership Number online to facilitate fuel access with reciprocating biodiesel fueling organizations.

Yes _____ No _____ Anonymous _____ (ie: John S***h)

I have read, understand and agree to the terms of this Membership Application and Agreement.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Make your check for payment to:

Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative

Mail Completed Agreement and a check for your share(s) to:

VC Biodiesel Coop
1700 E Thompson Blvd, Suite F
Ventura, CA 93001

BIODIESEL FACTOIDS

Precautions and disclaimers: The following are facts concerning biodiesel and its usage. You as a user must be aware of and responsible for these qualities of biodiesel fuel:

1. *Engine Warranty:* The use of biodiesel and biodiesel blends has not been approved by all engine manufacturers. Your use of the fuel may effect your warrantee, therefore you should check your owners manual or with your engine manufacturer before using biodiesel blends over B5. Be aware of this issue and use the fuel according to your own judgment. See the link below to engine warrantee statements.

2. *Developmental Fuels:* Biodiesel (B-100) and biodiesel blends over B-5 that do not meet ASTM D-975 petroleum specifications are sold as development fuels in California. As such, the fuel vender and users must comply with California Business and Professional Code and the DMS regulations. For reference see <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/pdfs/PetroleumRegs.pdf>

3. *Solvent Properties:* Biodiesel, in addition to being fuel, is an effective solvent, and will act accordingly. This means that:

a. Biodiesel will dissolve existing solids—created through usage of petroleum ("petroleum") diesel—in your vehicle's fuel system. These solids will clog your vehicle's fuel filter. When this happens depends on many factors, but can be recognized by the following symptoms: power loss, engine sputtering, difficulty starting, and poor fuel mileage. When you notice these symptoms, you will have to replace your vehicle's fuel filter (possibly more than once, depending on the amount of petroleum solids in the fuel system). *Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative recommends keeping at least one spare fuel filter on hand at all times.* Clogging of fuel filters also occurs with old fuel storage containers that contained petroleum diesel. When dealing with such large fuel tanks, fuel filters may have to be changed many times, and cleaning of the tank before biodiesel usage may be a more suitable alternative.

b. Biodiesel will, over time, dissolve most types of paint. For this reason, the biodieselcoop.org recommends keeping a clean, soft, dry rag on hand when fueling, to gently wipe off any spillage. When the rag becomes soaked with biodiesel, put it in a dark, closed storage container to await proper disposal. Do not leave fuel-soaked rags crumpled up in the sun. *Under such conditions, the rags are prone to spontaneous combustion due to oxidation and the heat generated during that process.*

c. Biodiesel will degrade rubber components in older vehicles' fuel systems faster than petroleum diesel. These components include some hoses, seals, and o-rings. Most diesel vehicles made after 1993 use synthetic components, eliminating this problem. *Please contact the manufacturer for answers on specific parts.* Should your rubber components need replacement, we recommend viton substitutes. Call us for more information.

4. *Cold Weather Properties:* Depending on its feedstock, biodiesel can gel at temperatures as high as 40 degrees Fahrenheit or higher without added anti-gel. If you operate in cold weather take precautions to prevent gelling which can include blending with petroleum or the use of cold weather treatments. This is especially recommended for vehicles with electronically-controlled, highly-sensitive fuel injection systems, such as those found in Volkswagen TDIs and Chevrolet/GMC Duramax.

5. *Vehicle Emissions and Performance:* Because every engine is different, Ventura County Biodiesel Cooperative makes no claims about emissions or engine performance when burning biodiesel fuel. Biodiesel will not have the same effects on every vehicle. Because the BTU value of biodiesel is slightly less than that of petroleum diesel # 2, a small loss of power and fuel economy is to be expected, although this is mitigated by biodiesel's higher lubricity and cetane number.

6. *Biodiesel Storage:* Biodiesel should not be stored more than 6 months without topping off or cycling. Biodiesel can oxidize when exposed to air and light for extended periods, resulting in a "rancid" fuel that can have negative effects on your vehicle's performance. Biodiesel needs to be stored properly, in a dark container, away from air and water. Use a filter with a water separator. Like diesel, biodiesel can attract

bugs and biological contamination. *The potential for contamination should be taken very seriously, and guarding against it is the member's responsibility.* Large fuel containers must be vented properly. Regarding rust and age issues of storage containers, see section IV. 1(a), above.

7. *Fuel Additives:* Biodiesel, in this document, is defined as 100% biodiesel (B100) and biodiesel blends are identified by the blend concentration. For example B20 contains 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel. If you would like to use an additive in your fuel, for whatever reason, we recommend you contact us for recommendations. If you plan on blending biodiesel with petroleum diesel, remember: the better quality the diesel, the better the blend. Environmentally if you must blend with petroleum diesel use D975 specification fuel and try to only use low sulfur fuel.

Reference Resources:

<http://www.socalbug.guidelines.pdf>

Biodiesel Handling and Use Guidelines

http://www.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdfs/biodiesel_handling.pdf

Generic Biodiesel MSDS

http://www.nbb.org/pdf_files/MSDS.PDF

Biodiesel FAQ's

http://www.nbb.org/pdf_files/RegulatedFleet_QA.pdf

Engine Warrantee Information

http://www.nbb.org/resources/fuelfactsheets/standards_and_warranties.shtm

Biodiesel: Quality of the fuel is very important to all of us. The Coop will distribute biodiesel manufactured to ASTM D-6751 standards. Although tax provisions may dictate that B99 or B99.9 is the only fuel available, the coop will always seek to provide pure biodiesel (B100) whenever possible. All Cooperative members have rights and obligations.