

Media Release

The right mix for a green future

The sight of old school buses belching out black smoke may soon become a thing of the past thanks to Alternative Petroleum Technology, an American company who has partnered up with New Zealand based company, Blended Fuel Solutions and recently taken up residence at the Clean Technology Centre in Otaki.

Alternative Petroleum Technology (APT) is an environmental technology company dedicated to comprehensive cost effective solutions to environmental problems. Through their New Zealand branch - APTNZ, they are introducing a range of emulsified fuel technologies which can help to reduce fuel consumption, increase engine efficiency and significantly reduce noxious tailpipe emissions and greenhouse gases.

The Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) is so impressed with APTNZ's emulsified fuel technology; it is trialing the technology on a tractor/mower with a view to expand to much of the council's older fleet if successful.

"Put simply, emulsion fuels reduce noxious gases and other carbon emissions," says Leigh Ramsey, a partner in APTNZ. "This is in line with KCDC's approach to clean technology so the trial is a great fit."

"KCDC's willingness to be involved in the trial shows a real commitment to the technology and a huge vote of confidence in APTNZ," says Mr Ramsey.

The month long trial is the first of its kind in New Zealand "If this trial is successful we can look at the possibility of taking old commercial fleets and improving their emissions profile. The carbon footprint of a bus is huge if it needs replacing due to its diesel emissions, however the emulsified fuel technologies can greatly reduce this with no engine modification or replacement of the vehicle required."

Alternative Petroleum President, Patrick Grimes, said the improved combustion from the blend could create fuel savings of up to 3 per cent.

APTNZ is one of 12 businesses who are members of the Clean Technology Centre; an initiative managed by Grow Wellington. Mr Ramsey says the Clean Technology Centre is the ideal place for APTNZ to be running its operations from. "The support and dedication we receive from Grow Wellington through the Clean Technology Centre is invaluable," he says. "There is a vast range of expertise at the centre and a real culture of collaboration and reciprocation."

"The sharing of ideas and opportunities that will arise from APTNZ being at the Clean Technology Centre will vastly enhance the positive clustering effect which is beginning to take shape there," says Steven Finlay, Grow Wellington's Centre of Excellence Manager for Clean Technology. "The trial with KCDC is a real step forward for the advancement of emulsion fuel technologies in New Zealand."

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