

Used Cooking Oil Recycling Services

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Did you know all of the cooking oils used in the MTS Centre are collected and recycled into biodiesel and sold in rural Manitoba? (MTS Centre website, 2015)

Minimum Sustainable Recommendations

When developing a bid document for cooking oil recycling services, request the following:

- The Vendor must utilize the collected used oil for agricultural feed and/or biodiesel production.
- The Vendor should provide monetary incentives for the collected cooking oil and provide detailed statements outlining the volume of oil collected and price rates (e.g. \$/tonne).
- The Vendor must provide appropriately sized used oil collection containers to accommodate the storage location, the volume of oil generated. The container must also be appropriately sized to reduce the frequency of pick-ups, costs and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transportation of oil to the recycling facility.

Other Things to Consider

To reduce the use of cooking oil, explore opportunities to install efficient oil filtration systems for deep fryers. Oil filtration systems can help keep the cooking oil clean longer, which reduces costs associated with purchasing cooking oil and recycling the cooking oil.

What are the sustainability issues?

Restaurants and cafeterias generate a significant amount of waste cooking oil. Municipalities have by-laws to prevent greases and oils from entering and clogging sewage pipes. If cooking oil enters the wastewater system, additional energy and treatment is required to break down the material at the treatment facility. In Winnipeg, all commercial kitchens and restaurants are required to have grease traps to prevent oils from entering the sewer system.

Some organizations are placing their collected cooking oil in the landfill when in fact, it should be recycled. If cooking oil is placed in the landfill, the oil will break down and produce methane gas, a greenhouse gas that has twenty-one times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

What are the sustainability options?

A number of products can be generated from used cooking oil, including agricultural feed and biodiesel. Agricultural feed derived from biodiesel can be a cost-effective way of feeding farm animals and biodiesel is an alternative fuel source which can be used for power generation, transportation and heating.

Since cooking oil is a valuable commodity, cooking oil recycling services are widely available in many regions. Oil recyclers often provide monetary incentives to businesses for the oil collected.