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Media Contact: Michele Todd Ralston
PHONE: (513)557-7092

The
Metropolitan
Sewer District
of Greater
Cincinnati
(MSD)



1600 Gest Street
Cincinnati, Ohio
45204
513.244.1300

MSD-UC Team Awarded EPA Grant to Turn Sewer Grease into Biodiesel *Funding will Launch Pilot Biodiesel Production System*

Cincinnati, OH – The US Environmental Protection Agency has awarded an \$87,000 P3 grant to a team of faculty, students and staff from the University of Cincinnati (UC) and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) to turn sewer grease into biodiesel.

The team competed against 300 college and university innovators from across the country in the 8th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. The EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) award competition was held at the expo.

MSD's Ting Lu, PhD, an environmental engineer, has been working with faculty and students from UC and Bluegrass Biodiesel of Falmouth, Ky., to clean and treat waste cooking oil from UC's campus eateries to make biodiesel and create energy to power several residence halls.

"Disposal of trap grease can be costly," says Lu. "If we can eliminate that cost and in turn reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources the benefits are exponential."

"This project has the potential to become a national model to reduce waste and fuel costs," says Tony Parrott, Director of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. "We are proud of the work the UC-MSD team has done with Bluegrass Biodiesel and will continue to do to improve our environment and our community's sustainable future."

The P3 grant money will allow the team to develop a community-scale biodiesel production system that would convert trap grease collected from Greater Cincinnati sewers into biodiesel. Trap grease is grease restaurants trap before it goes into the sewer. The project, slated to begin in September, will also include pilot demonstrations and a 100-gallon pilot treatment facility.

The EPA's Annual Design Expo is intended to provide young innovators an opportunity to further develop their sustainable project and apply it to real world applications or move it to the marketplace.

Every day, the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) protects the public's health and the environment through professional water reclamation and watershed management. As we collect and treat more than 180 million gallons of sewage daily from 43 municipalities, villages, and townships in Greater Cincinnati through 3,000 miles of sanitary or combined sewers, MSD serves you with honesty, integrity, accountability, and respect.