

## FRY AWAY, DRIVE AWAY

Low-Impact Living Initiative (LILI), Redfield, Buckinghamshire  
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Source: LILI

**“We'd also like more people to come and visit the centre at Redfield and get involved in more sustainable living. We can all, as individuals, take it upon ourselves to reduce our own impact by thinking carefully about the way we live - the way we travel, work, consume, enjoy our leisure, provide food, energy and shelter, and dispose of our waste.”**

Dave Darby, Director, LILI

*LILI (Low-Impact Living Initiative) is a non-profit organisation based at Redfield in Buckinghamshire. LILI's biodiesel project doesn't actually have very much to do with flowers. It's an energy project with a difference. It encourages people to use recycled vegetable oil to make environmentally friendly power for their car. Read on to find out more...*

### Why was LILI set up?

Its whole mission is to help people reduce the impact of their driving on the environment, gain new skills, live healthier while having fun and saving money. The biodiesel course has been running since 2001 and it was started by LILI co-founder Phil Hunt. **The idea was to raise public awareness about the damage that we are inflicting upon our planet**, from climate change, soil erosion and habitat destruction to pollution of our air and water, damage to the ozone layer and the ongoing extinctions of species. Each of these has serious implications for human health, global ecology and the economy, and unless things change, they could even threaten the continued survival of the human race itself. So LILI was set up to give practical solutions to tackle some of these issues.

### So how is the biodiesel fuel project a practical solution?

People use cars that is an obvious fact. Some people could reduce the use of the cars or not use them at all. But sometimes people need to use them. So if that's the case, **the fuel they use should be as environmentally friendly as possible. Cue carbon neutral biodiesel fuel. And what's more practical than making your own with no need for alterations to your engine?**

### How exactly does LILI help people make biodiesel fuel?

LILI has a free fact sheet, it runs residential courses and it's now published a book. **Courses run throughout the year and enable you to make your own cheap, carbon-neutral diesel.** They cover everything from the chemistry involved in biodiesel production, vehicle considerations, the supply of

used cooking oil and other chemicals, Environment Agency and VAT law; even plant design and construction using readily-available materials. LILI's book on making biodiesel fuel is proving to be really popular and it's selling really well.

**“We're only interested in making biodiesel from used vegetable oil. Otherwise we'll end up using vast amounts of land for producing more vegetable oil and that's land that can be used for growing food for hungry people.”**

Dave Darby, Director, LILI



Source: LILI

### **And what are LILI's plans for the future?**

The Centre at LILI will continue to run training and provide information on biodiesel fuel production. But it will also continue to run a wide range of other courses on issues such as renewable energy, food production, water conservation, composting and they publish books and manuals on all of these.

### **Facts and Information**

- Most scientists agree that climate change is mostly due to the way we live and our use of fossil fuels. Climate change may not sound too bad if it was just about warmer weather, but it's actually more serious than that and it's a local, national and global problem. It means less rain, water shortages, forest fires, flooding, damage to crops and wildlife. It could also lead to more diseases caused by pest infestations.
- Using environmentally friendly forms of energy in our cars, homes, and offices as well as reducing our use of energy is the only way to tackle climate change. **The good news is saving energy can save you money and the measures you need to take can be simple.**
- It certainly makes good environmental and economic sense to ensure your car is running as efficiently as possible. Appropriate measures can mean significant savings. Vehicle manufacturers can provide you with the information you need to check a vehicle's energy and environmental credentials, including things like recyclable content of their products.
- If your household, community group or workplace use cars or vans, try and use alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, biogas, fuel cells and hydrogen. This can significantly reduce the impact of climate change.

## Further resources

- Find out more about biodiesel fuel production by visiting the LILI website ([www.lowimpact.org](http://www.lowimpact.org)) where you'll find a free fact sheet, training courses and a book. You can also find out more about alternative fuels for cars from the Energy Saving Trust ([www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk)). Both LILI and EST provide information on where you can buy alternative fuel for your vehicle.
- Community Action for Energy (CAfE) can provide community groups with information, advice, support and training on running a community-based sustainable energy project. **The programme provides free information on setting up a project, expert support, training and downloadable resources and examples of other successful projects.** For more information visit [www.est.org.uk/cafe](http://www.est.org.uk/cafe) or call 08701 261444. You can also contact your local energy efficiency advice centre on 0800 512 012 for impartial advice about saving energy in your home.