



Fats Into Jet Fuel

New biofuels technology can turn any fat (including oil from animal fat) into fuel to power jet airplanes. The technology is said to be green because no gasoline products are added.

Scientists say that the technology is better than other biofuels. “We can take virtually any (fat) ... and turn it into virtually any fuel,” said a scientist. “And we're not competing directly with the food supply, like (fuels) that are made from corn,” he added.

The fuel also burns cleaner, say scientists, so it's better for the environment and the process puts to use what other biodiesel processes throw away.

Today's biodiesel fuels don't match the needs for jet fuel, The fuel must travel at 25,000 to 35,000 feet where temperatures can reach 70 degrees below zero, so jet fuel needs to flow well in cold temperatures.



The process has four steps. First, scientists use high temperature and water pressure to change the oil and fat molecules. Next, they place these in a reactor and carbon dioxide is released. “After these first two steps, we can make any fuel we want to make,” said a scientist. Finally, they make a few other small changes to create the fuel.

“We currently produce one-and-a-half billion gallons of animal fats annually. Animal fats are harder to work with, but cheaper,” said a scientist. “We think the (airline) industry will be keen to find an alternative to petroleum-based jet fuel.”

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