Bio Diesel Bus

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WKU is reducing it’s carbon footprint even more by adding a bio diesel bus to it’s fleet of shuttles.

It comes just in time for Earth Day next week as Amy Bingham reports in this week’s View from the Hill.

It’s a collaboration between the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Restaurant Group, Agriculture and Research Education Center and Parking and Transportation. But the biggest cheerleader for the bio-diesel bus is the Office of Sustainability.

“This is the best kind of sustainability project.”

What does this----

Have to do with this?

Quite a lot actually.

“We spend a couple of days to dry the vegetable oil out but once the vegetable oil is ready it takes four house to mix the vegetable oil and methanol to make the bio diesel.”

After using bio-diesel fuel in farm equipment since 2013, a WKU shuttle bus will now be powered by the alternate fuel.

“What I love about it is we’re taking the process start to finish. We feed the students, we teach the students and then we’re transporting the students around campus in the bus.”

It’s a hands on experience for nearly a dozen students.

“They’re able to take their expertise and what they’ve learned in the classroom and apply it here and make changes, make improvements.”

Not only is it applied research for engineering students…

“It’s just been a really good way for us to apply what we learn in the classroom to hands on application. “

But it will also educate students riding the bus.

“We’re developing a story board to put inside the bus that will teach the students riding the bus what we’re doing.”

Letting them know the role they played in this sustainability

effort.

“This bus is running on oil that was in a fry vat a week ago where your French fries were fried in fresh food company.”

For now only one bus will operate with bio diesel fuel but they hope to eventually expand it to the whole fleet.

“It’s just a win win win, it’s a sustainability best practices all the way around. I love it.”

The bio diesel bus will make its official debut next Thursday at WKU’s Earth Day Festival from ten to two in Centennial Mall.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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