

I Just Saved A Fortune On My Life Insurance! Did You?

Take advantage of the current low rates today!

10-Yr Level Term Life Insurance \$500,000 Policy (monthly premiums)	age male	40 \$21.88
	45	\$33.69
	50	\$50.75
	55	\$79.63

Click Here for a FREE QUOTE!

Accuquote

The Triangle's Lifestyle Magazine

Living in Style

[Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Subscriber Rewards](#)

Tuesday, December 16, 2008
 Raleigh Durham Cary Chapel Hill

[Register / Log In](#)

Search N&O Search Advanced >

Home News Sports Lifestyles Business Politics Opinion Obits Blogs Multimedia Classifieds Shopping Shortcuts Member Center About Triangle.com

Business

Home / Business

Topics: Technology | Personal Finance Columnists: Cornatzer | Gilster | Hagel | Nicholson | Stock | Savvy Consumer | Stump the Geeks Blogs: Taking Stock

Stocks: Summary | Local Indices | World Markets | Splits | Currency | Wealthmeter | My Portfolio

Comments (0) | Recommend (0)

Pittsboro surges in biofuels world

Swiss-based Roundtable sets up Chatham office

John Murawski - Staff Writer
 Published: Tue, Dec. 16, 2008 12:30AM Modified Tue, Dec. 16, 2008 05:19AM

Pittsboro is joining the global race to create standards for biofuels.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels, based in Lausanne, Switzerland, has established an office in the Chatham County town to lead its effort in the Americas.

Biofuels, used as substitutes for gasoline and diesel fuel, are struggling to gain acceptance as alternatives to imported oil.

BOOKMARK E-MAIL PRINT TEXT SIZE: - +

Welcome [BECOME A MEMBER](#) | [Sign In](#)

Advertisements

TWO KINDS OF BIOFUELS

Biofuels come in two main forms: ethanol and biodiesel.

Ethanol, a flammable alcohol derived from plant sugars, is used as a substitute for gasoline. It's made primarily from sugar cane and corn.

Biodiesel is used as a substitute for diesel fuel. It's processed from animal fats, vegetable oils and waste cooking grease.

More Business

- [Tight budgets dampen 'me-shopping'](#)
- [Fed ready to slash rates amid deepening recession](#)
- [White House assures automakers help is on the way](#)
- [Collapse touches lives and fortunes big and small](#)
- [Fed likely to cut interest rates](#)
- [Job prospects for IT workers grow dimmer](#)

Sprint

The Simply EverythingSM Plan.
 One phone. One plan. One flat rate.

\$99.99/mo.

[Get it now](#)

The Swiss effort is bringing together hundreds of growers, producers, users around the world and others in an attempt to create a seal of approval for biofuels produced using ecologically sound methods.

The organization set up its Americas office here because it hired away a coordinator from Piedmont Biofuels Cooperative, a Pittsboro group that makes and sells biodiesel locally from used vegetable oil and chicken fat.

After its early promise to shift cars away from oil, support for biofuels sputtered after critics charged that alternative fuels were too often wasteful and inefficient, and after the rush to ethanol was blamed for higher corn prices.

The creation of the Pittsboro office is the latest effort by biofuels advocates to create standards for their industry and boost their credibility. The National Biodiesel Board in Missouri is working on its own industry standards, as is the Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance in Texas.

None of the standards would likely be binding, and it's not clear whether any of the rules would be accepted or followed by growers and producers. But the several simultaneous certification efforts speak to the urgency of the fledgling industry's problem.

Biofuels defenders acknowledge that some production methods are wasteful and inefficient.

"All biodiesel is not created equal," said Jeff Plowman, director of the biodiesel alliance in Texas. "We don't want to drive the fuel 4,000 miles to a production facility and then turn around and ship it 3,000 miles to market. That would completely negate any carbon benefit of the fuel."

The Swiss group is sponsored by that country's Federal Institute of Technology, a science and technology university, and roundtable participants include the United Nations Environment Program, World Wildlife Fund and Inter-American Development Bank. It has proposed sustainability standards that would be used globally to certify biofuels that are produced using fair labor and ecologically sound land use practices, and don't generate more greenhouses gases than they offset, among a dozen goals.

Matt Rudolf, who this month began running the group's Pittsboro office, will listen to comments and suggestions on the draft standards at meetings to be held in this country, Canada and Latin America. Rudolf expects to meet with several hundred growers, producers and industrial users in the coming months.

Preserve Holiday Memories

roxio creator 2009

[GET IT NOW](#)

ask the expert
[click here to meet the experts](#)

got a question?

Most Popular

- STORIES EMAILED
- Last 24 Hours
- [Cab driver found shot to death](#)
 - [Yellow is fleeing on Cary traffic light](#)
 - [State's wants dwarf its means](#)
 - [Cherry nurses under inquiry](#)
 - [Mugging delivered message](#)
- Last 7 Days
- [Northeast ice storm leaves 1.25M without power](#)
 - [Incident resolved at Beltline and New Bern Avenue](#)
 - [Move over fire ants -- here come needle ants](#)
 - [Woman delivers baby on side of road in](#)

The Swiss group expects to publish its standards in June and hopes the guidelines gain acceptance.

"The biofuels producers are taking a lot of heat right now," Rudolf said. "So they want some cover."

While Rudolf is working in the Americas, other organizers are working with growers and producers in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Before he began working for the Roundtable this month, Rudolf directed the Piedmont Biofuels Cooperative, an organization that collects used oil from about 100 area restaurants and converts it into biodiesel.

The co-op has helped raise the region's profile with its work in biofuels. It operates eight distribution centers in this state for B100 fuel, which is 100 percent biodiesel. Unlike biofuels centers that sell B20 and other biodiesel blends with standard diesel, Piedmont Biofuels specializes in pure B100 fuel.

john.murawski@newsobserver.com or 919-829-8932

COMMENTS

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Submit

Comments: 0 Showing: [Newest first](#)

More comments on this story:

Business Plan Writing and

Business plan writing since 1979. BBB Accredited. BPlanning.com

Free Business Grants Kit

Get \$50,000 in Free Business Grants. Request Your Free Kit Today
thousanddollarprof

Incorporate My Business

Looking For how to incorporate a small business? Visit The Top Incorporate

Ads by Yahoo!

Cary Durham teen killed in wreck this morning

Last 24 Hours

- [Help your child get ready for life](#)
- [Why I quit social work at Umstead](#)
- [Triangle home sales dive in Nov.](#)
- [Canes become Santa's Helpers](#)
- [Bride's mother flushes commode from gift registry](#)

Last 7 Days

- [In bacteria, vet sees key to human ills](#)
- [Ultimate catch-and-release](#)
- [Crash kills Durham student](#)
- [Move over fire ants -- here come needle ants](#)
- [Student distress signals sought](#)

Home Building?



Stanton Homes answers your questions about Home Building

Print Ads

[View all ads from past 7 days »](#)

Ads from Today's **THE NEWS & OBSERVER**

[CRESCENT STATE BANK](#)
[THE ROSEN LAW FIRM](#)

Search...

SEARCH

Top Jobs

[View All »](#)

Engineering Tech

Liquidation Technologies

Equipment & Plant Technician

Cotton Incorporated

FACILITIES COORDINATOR

Extron Electronics

[Quick Job Search](#)

[Advanced Search »](#)

Keyword(s):

Search >

powered by **careerbuilder.com**

Hot Deals

[View All »](#)



2003 Chrysler Town & Country

\$6,991

David O'Neal Chrysler Jeep Dodge at Westgate



2003 Dodge Ram 1500

\$11,995

Alliance Supercenter Inc



2008 Ford Mustang

\$17,995

Alliance Supercenter Inc



1994 Chevrolet Corvette

\$12,992

David O'Neal Chrysler Jeep Dodge at Westgate




1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee

\$4,992

David O'Neal Chrysler Jeep Dodge at Westgate

Powered by 

© Copyright 2008, The News & Observer Publishing Company
A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
[Help](#) [Contact Us](#) [Parental Consent](#) [Privacy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [RSS Feeds](#) [N&O Store](#) [Advertising](#)


HostedSolutions
Hosting Partners of
newsobserver.com