

# **Camden Council**

## **Biodiesel Fact Sheet**

### **Background**

Camden Council has a history of pursuing environmental opportunities within the scope of its role as a local government authority and has, on occasions, taken its enthusiasm for local improvement into the much larger arena. Since the early 1990's Council has actively participated in Sydney's air quality improvement forums including representation on the Metropolitan Air Quality Study; assisted in the development and publication of an Air Quality Improvement Manual for Local Government, and has been pro-active in its assessment/consideration of local development.

Council's Strategic Plan – Camden 2025 clearly sets out the priority held for improvement of our local environment and for the goal of **sustainability** in our choices and actions to provide the best outcomes for present and future generations. Sustainability is a foundational objective pursuing the maintenance and growth of our local resources and the protection of quality of life.

In recent years Council has investigated several alternative fuels including CNG, LPG and low sulphur diesels for use within Council fleets – both passenger and working fleets and equipment. The alternatives were investigated in efforts to achieve emission reductions having regards to our own contributions to the emissions of the local area and our sensitive position within the Camden Basin of the Greater Sydney Airshed. Of the various options Biodiesel provides the greatest opportunities for air quality improvements and achievement of the goal of sustainability.

Generally speaking, local councils have very little opportunity to make real impacts on the cocktail of air emissions released into our airshed daily due to the complexity and range of emission sources and regulators. Much of the emissions load is administered at State and Federal levels of government. However as local government is a large fuel consumer in each of their respective areas pursuit of the opportunity to test the performance and success of an alternative fuel such as Biodiesel opened a significant window of opportunity to have influence on the direction of air quality improvement we could achieve.

The reason for selecting the fleet base we did ie the waste vehicles is that waste vehicles operate daily in residential areas across the city, performing repetitious tasks that can be readily monitored, compared and duplicated for validity. The choice affords excellent opportunity for direct and transferable information sharing within local government and across related industry and an ideal medium from which to base large and ready uptake of the results and benefits.

Camden proposes to showcase the trial and make the findings from the trial public and available for review by other councils and the community.