

## PRESS RELEASE

### Developing affordable fueling solutions for bio-diesel cooperatives



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Cowichan Bio-Diesel Co-op

### **The Co-operative Biofuel Distribution System Feasibility Study**

The Cowichan Bio-Diesel Co-op (CB-DC) is excited to announce the release of its Co-operative Biofuel Distribution System Feasibility Study. This report lays the groundwork for creating a low-cost automated biofuel pump that can benefit small distributors across North America.

With funding from The Co-operators, CB-DC and Vancity, this feasibility study had 3 goals: to define the ideal biofuel distribution system, to research and compare existing point of sale systems, and to identify gaps between the existing and ideal systems.

Existing fueling platforms cost tens of thousands of dollars, too much for small distributors. This problem has been a challenge for the local fuel movement since it began a decade ago. Developing an affordable bio-fueling solution will finally allow producers to sell renewable fuels to the public and begin to disrupt the current fossil-fueling monopoly. Sixteen biofuel co-ops responded to a [fueling survey](#), demonstrating both a need and demand for an affordable point of sale system that can be interfaced with an inexpensive pump. The goal is to create cloud based automated system that allows co-ops to create a national network of renewable fueling stations.

Two alternative-fueling platforms that are in development are highlighted in this report, [CBDC's BioPay](#) and [Baltimore Bio-Diesel Co-op's BBD9000](#). BBD9000 offers single blends, while BioPay blends fuel on-site. Both use *Linux-based open-source coding*, with Cowichan Bio-Diesel Co-Op's *first pumps recently entered into service* and *Baltimore's first few units operating in the field since early 2014*.

"Our goal is to have a fully functioning and priced prototype available for BC co-ops by the end of 2015," said Brian Roberts, President of the Cowichan Bio-Diesel Co-op. "Once our pilot is complete we'll be able to help groups across North America sell affordable alternative fuels to their communities."

The next steps to realizing a plug-and-play bio-fueling platform include field testing units, developing accompanying operating manuals, and costing the different models of the system. Engineering, coding, design and marketing working groups will finalize designs and implementation strategies in the second half of 2015. Financing will be secured through partnerships, grants, pre-purchases and crowd funding.

For more information and for a copy of the full Co-operative Biofuel Distribution System Feasibility Study visit the [BC Biofuel Network's website](#).

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