

PrairieFire BioFuels Cooperative Statement of Intent for the Property Located at 1894 E. Washington Ave

PrairieFire BioFuels Cooperative is a member owned organization dedicated to providing a reliable source of B100 biodiesel to its members and the public, diesel car repair service, and educational outreach on topics related to the production and consumption of biofuels. The property located at 1894 E. Washington Ave. affords us the rare opportunity to accomplish all three of these objectives.

First, it represents a convenient, high profile location for small-scale retail sales of biodiesel. However, given that the only people who can use biodiesel are diesel car owners, a constituency that makes up less than 2 to 3 percent of all vehicles on the road in the US according to Diesel Technology Forum, an industry trade group, and that of those diesel owners only a small fraction are aware of the availability of biodiesel, our projected traffic load related to fuel sales will be quite light. We expect no more than 2-3 fueling events per hour of operation when the fuel is finally made available. Nevertheless, it is still advantageous for the co-op to have a high visibility location in order to raise awareness of biodiesel as an alternative fuel source.

Second, because of its former life as an oil change shop, the property is perfectly suited to one of our other top priorities, the facilitation of co-op members maintaining their diesel vehicles. Trained mechanics will be assisting in the routine up-keep of member vehicles by performing light maintenance and education about how to keep these durable vehicles chugging safely and happily down the road. The same numbers quoted above apply here as well and we project our overall load from repairs to be very light.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this site allows us to conduct educational forums and workshops on topics related to biofuel production and use. Because biodiesel (or *transesterified* vegetable oil as it is technically called) is relatively novel to the general public despite being around since 1853 (oddly enough, prior to the invention of the diesel engine itself), one of our core missions is education and outreach. By conducting seminars on what biodiesel is, how it can be used in place of petroleum based diesel, and how safe and clean it is, we hope to gain wider acceptance and demand for this fuel. The configuration of the property at 1894 E. Washington Ave. allows us to conduct hands-on demonstrations, which are the best educational format for topics as technically onerous as car engines and fuel production.

As a matter of assurance, we do not intend to alter the physical structure of the property in any way other than to hang a temporary banner in place of the old Care Care Clinic signage. We will be installing a small-volume fuel storage and dispensing tank (<300 gallons), but this is also a temporary structure that will leave the premises when the co-op finds its next home. We will however comply with any requirements regarding screening and parking. In no way will we endeavor to configure the property such that the right-of-way of the surrounding pedestrian thoroughfare could be infringed upon. In terms of our hours of operation, the co-op expects to conduct business during normal business hours (7-7) with the occasional weekend educational workshop when

we eventually get up to full speed. The co-op wishes to comply with any and all safety regulations that may apply to it. We look forward to being good neighbors.