



State and Local Facilities Go Green with Soy-Based Products

What do Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and the City of North Olmsted, Ohio have in common? They have both turned to products made from soybeans as part of their efforts to “go green”. By using products such as soy-based bar-and-chain oil, two-cycle oil, hydraulic fluid, lubricants, cleaners and biodiesel blends, this state park and local government are helping to protect the environment and reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

While dozens of Federal agencies and National Parks have used soy-based products for years, an increasing number of state and local governments and facilities are following their lead. After learning about the benefits of soy-based products from Chris Case, facility manager at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Munising, Michigan, Porcupine Mountains and the City of North Olmsted decided to implement some changes that are now making the grass a little greener.



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Facility Manager Chris Case has shared biobased product results with many state and local entities as well as federal employees. As a result, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and the City of North Olmsted, Ohio are examples of those who have joined Case in making the switch to biobased products. Go to www.soybiobased.org for a profile on biobased products uses at Picture Rocks National Lakeshore.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Located on the shores of Lake Superior in Ontonagon, Michigan, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park uses B20 (a blend of 20 percent biodiesel with 80 percent petroleum diesel) in its diesel-powered equipment. According to Parks & Recreation Supervisor at Porcupine Mountains Bill Doan, the benefits of this conversion are two-fold. First, the emissions from the equipment are drastically reduced. Second, the biodiesel blend can be made from soybean oil—a reliable, renewable and environmentally friendly alternative, which helps reduce our dependence on petroleum-based products.

In addition to B20, Porcupine Mountains has converted from petroleum-based products to soy-based alternatives in all aspects of park operations. Going beyond the use of biodiesel blends, the park also uses a variety of other soy-based products, including hydraulic fluid, two-cycle oil, bar-and-chain oil, penetrating oil, parts cleaning solution, bearing grease, air compressor fluid, degreaser, 80/90 gear lube and fuel conditioners. In fact, the parts cleaner is so mild that the

park mechanic actually washes his hands in it—something he never would have done with the old petroleum-based product.

Porcupine Mountains has also incorporated the use of environmentally preferred products in cleaning the bathroom-shower buildings. Gone are the corrosive and acidic products of the past. The park has even been able to reduce the number of cleaning products from nearly a dozen, to three, saving money as well.

“These efforts are all part of our commitment to make Michigan’s premier green spaces even more green,” adds Doan.

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is the largest area of undeveloped wilderness in Michigan. Located on the shores of Lake Superior in Michigan’s Western Upper Peninsula, the Park spans 60,000 acres. For more information visit: mi.gov/porkies or contact Parks & Recreation Supervisor Bill Doan at 906-885-5275 or doanw@michigan.gov.

Products used at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park are manufactured by Renewable Lubricants, Inc. (www.renewablelube.com) and include:

- hydraulic fluid
- two-cycle oil
- bar-and-chain oil
- penetrating oil
- parts cleaning solution
- bearing grease
- air compressor fluid
- degreaser
- 80/90 gear lube
- fuel conditioners



Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Ranger Peter Kemppainen drives a tractor that is one of the facility’s many pieces of equipment now using soy-based products. Located on the shores of Lake Superior, the Park has found environmental and cost benefits from switching to biobased products.

City of North Olmsted, Ohio

For years, Duane Limpert, Director of Public Service for the City of North Olmsted, Ohio, had heard “too many people talk about being green without doing anything about it.” Limpert was intrigued by discussions with Chris Case of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, about the benefits of soy-based products. His biggest concern was cost, but Case explained that switching to soy-based products might actually save the city money. It wasn’t long before Limpert was sold. Limpert then went to North Olmsted Mayor Thomas O’Grady with the idea, and it was enthusiastically endorsed.

North Olmsted, a western suburb of Cleveland, is now using a wide-range of soy-based products and they have all “exceeded expectations,” according to Limpert. One example of a product giving above-and-beyond performance is the two-cycle oil in the city’s weed whips. Limpert noted that by mid-summer they have usually blown an engine on at least one whip. “This year, they’re



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all running great, and we think the bioproduct may get the credit for this,” he said.

City residents are enjoying the benefits of less diesel smoke that has accompanied the switch to a soy-based diesel additive in the city fleet, equipment and school buses. In fact, North Olmsted had the oldest municipal bus line in the state and still has the flagship bus—a 1951 GMC diesel coach that is used in parades, group tours, and for other special events. Since the city began using the soy-based diesel additive, the old bus is “running great, with a lot less smoke,” Limpert noted.

Limpert sums up their switch to soy-based products by pointing out “with these products you can be ‘green’ and benefit yourself at the same time. People always say you should do the right thing. Using these products is not a matter of *doing* the right thing, it *is* the right thing. These products really work.”

CITY OF NORTH OLMSTED, OHIO

For more information about the City of North Olmsted, Ohio visit www.north-olmsted.com or contact Director of Public Service Duane Limpert at **440-716-4150** or limpertd@north-olmsted.com.

Products used by the City of North Olmsted, Ohio are manufactured by Renewable Lubricants, Inc. (www.renewablelube.com) and include:

- **biobased hydraulic oil**
- **biobased grease**
- **biobased chain saw bar oil**
- **biobased penetrating lubricant**
- **biobased two-cycle oil**
- **soy-based diesel additive**

FACT FILE

America’s farms are just beginning to tap their potential as a source for natural, renewable biobased products that offer benefits to worker health, the environment, America’s economy and energy security. To learn more about the many biobased products made from soybeans, such as those used at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Federal Park, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and the City of North Olmsted, go to www.soybiobased.org.

Because of the potential for biobased products to create new markets for soybeans, U.S. soybean farmers have invested millions of dollars to research, test and promote biobased products. Much of this work was done through the United Soybean Board (USB), which is composed of 64 U.S. soybean farmers appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to invest soybean checkoff funds. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for the soybean checkoff.

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