

Cummins, Biodiesel, and Carbon Reduction



Cummins pioneered the automotive diesel engine 100 years ago. Today, they are a leading diesel engine manufacturer as well as a leader in branding and marketing. Cummins recently began marketing engines direct to consumers for retrofitting existing vehicles. National Biodiesel Board Sustainability Director Don Scott has been working with NBB's technical team to shore up Cummins' support for biodiesel blends by helping them understand the benefits of domestic, low-carbon biodiesel.

In response to Don's efforts, Cummins donated one of their new retrofit engines to the National Biodiesel Foundation and invited NBB to join them in promoting biodiesel alongside Cummins' new retrofit engines.

"People were so excited about our biodiesel retrofit," says Don Scott. "After the vehicle was finished, we joined Cummins for a 4-day 'Four Corners' event in the southwest to show it off. It's an amazing feeling to be able to ride on and off-road in a vehicle that is actually helping the environment thanks for biodiesel."

The biodiesel vehicle with the Cummins retrofit engine has been dubbed the Cummins Commando on social media, stemming from the Jeepster Commando chassis. This sport utility comes from a time of cheap, plentiful oil and was originally rated at 11.4 miles per gallon. With the help of cleaner burning biodiesel, the NBB team has logged over 3,000 miles in the first few weeks of road trials with a fuel economy best of 37.4 MPG crossing Continental Divide.

The Four Corners event was followed by more events in Utah including meet-and-greets with Jeep designers Mark Allen and Chris Piscitelli and hosts of the internet TV series [Dirt Every Day](#), as well as a lengthy photo shoot and interview with [Brains on Fire](#) and the [BF Goodrich Garage](#) telling the biodiesel story. However, the main attraction was an event with Cummins promoting their soon to be expanding line of retrofit engines and biodiesel use. Cummins has shown their appreciation for NBB's enthusiastic participation in these events and is expected to join NBB in future shows this year.

**This is an excerpt from the May 1, 2019 Biodiesel Bulletin*