

Vegawatt™ - Turn Your Veggy Oil Into Electricity

Posted By [thesustainablekitchen](#) On January 10, 2009 @ 9:17 am In [Food Policy](#), [Lead Story](#), [Restaurant, sustainable](#) | [1 Comment](#)

How about a side of electricity with your fish and chips?



As a chef and restaurateur, one of my headaches has always been what to do with used frying oil and grease. Sure, I use non-genetically modified vegetable or rice oil in my fryers but you still have to do something with the used fat. Cooking oil is considered a low-grade hazardous material and must be disposed of (for a fee) by a rendering plant.

Back in the day, I had to deal with grease bins, waste haulers, and that lovely “McDonald’s fried food” smell in my garbage areas. More recently, I found a local entrepreneur who would pick-up my used oil (free of charge mind you) and convert it into bio diesel for his own personal use. With fuel prices yoyoing all over the place, I’d love to sell my stash but it hasn’t been feasible or profitable, yet. It also doesn’t seem that environmentally sound to have people driving around from restaurant to restaurant collecting fuel to use in their car.

There’s got to be a better way - a more “green” option that is good for the earth and good for my bank account.

[Enter Vegawatt™ by Owl Power Company](#) ^[1].



A Vegawatt™ system contains more than just power generation equipment. It includes a turn-key waste vegetable oil (WVO) refinery, automatically transforming the darkest, nastiest used cooking oil into fuel appropriate for power generation.

Founded and invented by James Peret, Vegawatt™ is a [cogeneration system](#) ^[2] for restaurants and food service facilities that use waste cooking oil as a readily available fuel source to generate on-site electricity and hot water. So here’s the cool part. The Vegawatt™ power system is a fully automated equipment system located outside of a restaurant’s back door. It requires no intervention or maintenance by restaurant staff, no additional chemicals, and produces no liquid byproducts. It uses the cleanest diesel engine technology available, certified to the strictest U.S. EPA standards.