



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive's Office**  
**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

## **Media Release— Wednesday, December 13, 2006**

Contact: Edwina Elcox, (cell) 425.754.3322, (w) 425.388.3090

# **Snohomish County to Host Biodiesel Seminar**

---

Local farmers to learn how to manufacture biodiesel

**MONROE** – On Monday, December 18 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds the agriculture community will be able to participate in a hands-on biodiesel training and demonstration. Farmers will be educated on the benefits of using biodiesel and biodiesel production. The seminar is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation to host four seminars throughout Washington. There will be no charge to attend the presentation, but space is limited.

“Biodiesel fuels not only promote a cleaner environment,” said County Executive Aaron Reardon, “they offer promise to our local economy and agriculture industry”.

The presentation will demonstrate the process of making biodiesel from either waste vegetable oil or new vegetable oil feedstock. Bruce Barbour, president of BioDiesel Works LLC, located in Bellingham, will show how restaurant grease can result in biofuel that can be used in diesel farm equipment and vehicles. The goal of the grant from the Alcoa Foundation is to provide those who are interested in producing small amounts of biodiesel with a background in the safe processing and handling of materials.

In 2006, Snohomish County awarded a \$32,000 grant for a biodiesel test crop to explore the viability of growing biodiesel crops in Snohomish County. Last May, two types of mustard seed and two types of canola seed were planted on 52 acres. The first harvest of the canola seed took place on September 28. The results indicate that biodiesel may have a promising future in Snohomish County. Additional funding was recently approved to expand the test crop in 2007.

“This effort is part of the County’s Focus on Farming initiative which continues to promote the cultivation of biodiesel crops in Snohomish County” said Reardon, “our citizens will directly benefit from a crop that reduces the dependence on oil and encourages investment into our agriculture industry and economy.”

Registration will begin at 8:30 and the presentation will adjourn at 3:00.

The December 18<sup>th</sup> presentation is the conclusion to a series of four seminars that have been held around Washington State. Wenatchee, Ferndale, and Moses Lake have been the host of previous seminars.

***For more information or to RSVP, please email Diane Kamionka at [dkamionka@earthlink.net](mailto:dkamionka@earthlink.net).***

###