Remarks
Paul Pescello in front of Connecticut's Capitol
April 26, 07

Hello and thank you for coming today. My name is Paul Pescatello. I'm President of Connecticut United for Research Excellence. We're also known as CURE. Our job is bioscience in Connecticut.

Today is the BioBus's maiden voyage as a biofuel-powered vehicle. Early this morning, in its bay in Rocky Hill we added a vegetable oil mixture to the BioBus' tank so that it could drive 10 miles to Hartford to be here for Bring Your Child to Work Day.

Today and in the future, our conversion to biofuel means we are going green. We are reducing the amount of particulates we emit into the air, decreasing emissions of greenhouse gases and supporting an energy alternative that has the potential to become Connecticut home-grown in just a few short months.

Behind me is the Connecticut BioBus, a mobile state of the art lifescience laboratory on wheels that has crossed the state hundreds of times delivering life science experiences to Connecticut students, teachers and the public.

It's always bothered us that our wonderful program, with its three-year waiting list, also contributed in a small way to pollution and dependency on foreign oil. Now we have a choice. Going green is a new exciting direction we've wanted to pursue for some time. We are using the biofuel to both propel the bus and to power the generators serving the scientific equipment on board.

Today we are asking students from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy in Hartford to help us celebrate the BioBus's conversion to biofuels.

You will see very soon that this is an amazingly simple process. So simple that we forget that it is advanced scientific understanding that makes it possible.

In a couple of minutes Sarah Berke, our BioBus director, and a student will convert vegetable oil to fuel. By the way that oil is probably from the cupboard at home.

I know this will be easy for him because just a few moments ago he completed the BioBus Mystery of the Crooked Cell Experiment that used gel electrophoresis to explore genetic testing in disease. In one morning our students have taken a major step in understanding disease AND energy. That's how powerful this bus is in helping our students grasp complicated principles of science.

I want to thank Gus Kellog here of Greenleaf Biofuels. All of us are excited about our new partnership that will keep the BioBus fueled with biodiesel for the next two years

Over the next couple of hours we will be collecting oil to transform into biofuel. I know many of the students have brought oil. And to our legislative and other guests -- we can accept frying oil from the cafeteria if you feel so inspired.

After a little bit of purification, that oil will be actually used on our bus on its next trip to a Connecticut school.

Thank you very much.

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