

Ecotek Scientists Making Bioenergy History

At Ecotek making new discoveries is a daily occurrence, but this year has been like no other. In March of this year, student scientists Keith Young Jr, Emmanuel Thomas Jefferson and Chris Anderson made biodiesel from soybean oil. Since that time the team has been making history in a number of ways.

The team's goal is to make bioenergy a viable alternative energy to people living in developing countries. Even though their goal may take some time to reach, these guys are off to a great start. Here's a quick run down of their progress. In April the team won second place at the Michigan AgriEnergy Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan for their work on soy based biofuel. They were the only non-collegiate team in the event. All other participants were industry stakeholders and PhDs from universities and research centers throughout the Midwest.

In May Keith and Emmanuel traveled to New York City to meet with leaders at the United Nations World Food Programme to discuss the impact of the biofuel industry on global food commodity prices. While there, they also participated in meetings at the UN on behalf of Chad to discuss a host of global issues, including biofuel technology. They were the only student delegation from the State of Michigan.

Two weeks ago the team started looking at other feedstocks. During this work effort they uncovered the "fuel potential" of grape seed oil.



This is a major breakthrough because grape seeds are an unassuming energy source that has been overlooked by bioenergy researchers. It is worth noting, that Antoine Crews, an 8th grader at Detroit Edison PSA played a significant role in this discovery.

Now that they have been successful in making biofuel from different feedstocks. The team is now doing indepth research on the chemical and physical properties of their biofuel stock, such as examining its solvency, viscosity, freezing point, and oxidation properties.

It is hard to believe that this team has made such progress in only a few months. With this type of work ethic and research progress, an invention of some sort is not far behind. Stay tuned.



About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a program within the Motor City Model UN Club, a 501c3 organization. It provides students ages 10 to 17 with the opportunity to work on science projects to help them better understand the role that science plays in policy making within international organizations like the United Nations. The students work on a diverse set of projects ranging from combating AIDS to protecting the environment. Once they have reviewed the UN treaties and have completed their lab research, the students meet with world leaders at the UN to share what they have learned. To learn more about the program and the students highlighted in this press release, please contact Keith Young at 313-399-7893 or email him at keiyoung@ecotek-us.com