



AccuWeather.com
 Enter U.S. zipcode or city, state

Subscriber Login:
 Zip Code:
 Subscriber Number:

Log In Help

- 3 FREE ISSUES**
 - News updates
 - Daily News Updates
 - News
 - Dairy
 - Livestock
 - Opinion
 - Columns
 - Print Editions
 - Photo Gallery
 - Special Sections
 - Blogs
 - Water in the West
 - Northwest Ag Show Photo Gallery
-
- Multimedia/Video/Audio
 - Game Center
-
- Events Calendar
 - Auction Calendar
 - Upcoming Show Schedule
-
- Browse Line Ads
 - Browse Display Ads
 - Place a Line Ad
 - How to Advertise
 - Advertising Email Updates
-
- Ag Marketplace

- Links & Information
- About Capital Press
- Capital Press Merchandise
- Site Map

Subscribe How'd You Do That?

Home Feedback Email Updates

Newsstand Readers Log in Here

2/12/2009 10:12:00 AM

[Email this article](#) • [Print this article](#)
[Comment on this article](#)



Cow-powered truck unveiled at World Ag Expo in Calif.

Cecilia Parsons
Capital Press

TULARE, Calif. - Lindsay, Calif., dairy producer Rob Hilarides didn't want his waste to go to waste so he figured out a way to turn it into power.

Hilarides and his family unveiled the nation's first "cow powered" milk truck Wednesday at the World Ag Expo in Tulare. The truck, converted from diesel to biomethane, is used to deliver milk tankers twice daily to Hilmar Cheese Co. in Hilmar, Calif.



Rob Hilarides of Hilarides Dairy in Lindsay, Calif., listens to the engine of his truck, which was converted from diesel to run on biomethane, on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the World Ag Expo in Tulare, Calif. The biomethane gas was produced from dairy waste at his farm. Photo by Cecilia Parsons/Capital Press

Hilarides, one of the first dairymen to convert methane into electricity on his dairy, has covered more of his dairy lagoons to capture gas. He said he plans to convert as many of his dairy vehicles as possible to run on the biomethane.

The project became possible through a public-private partnership aimed at developing a replacement for diesel fuel. Generated from renewable sources, the fuel produces fewer emissions than diesel, said Allen Dusault of Sustainable Conservation.

No figures were available for the actual cost of producing the biomethane.

Hilarides said the truck's mileage is comparable to diesel - about six miles per gallon. One of the few limiting factors for the conversion is the volume of the gas. Hilarides had to put extra tanks on the trucks to hold enough biomethane for the 270-mile trips to Hilmar.

"The process of harvesting the gas is simple, it's the details that mess up the project," Hilarides said. "Regulatory hurdles are immense. If you're not willing to jump into this, it will drive you nuts."

Related Stories:

- ['Bigger, better or faster'](#)

Related Links:

- [Sustainable Conservation](#)
- [World Ag Expo](#)
- [World Ag Expo special section](#)

Article Comment Submission Form

We cannot guarantee a personal response to all comments left here. If your intent is to submit a letter for publication in Capital Press [click here](#).

Article comments are not posted immediately. Each submission must be approved by the website editor, who may edit content for appropriateness.

Note: All information is required. Your telephone number will not be posted online.

Name:
Telephone:
E-mail:

Passcode: This form will not send your comment unless you copy exactly the passcode seen below into the text field. This is an anti-spam device to help reduce the automated email spam coming through this form.



Message: