

Mount Hood CC opens biodiesel lab, plans sustainable training center

Posted by

[ahaight](#) May 13, 2009 12:30PM



Bob Ellis/The Oregonian Biodiesel can be made safely at home with proper instruction.

Mount Hood Community College will dedicate its new biodiesel training lab Thursday, the first step towards creating a sustainable training center at the Gresham school.

The lab, the first housed on a college campus in Oregon, will offer classes to students and members of the community who are interested in making biodiesel at home.

While relatively simple to make -- the Internet is full of recipes using new or recycled vegetable oil -- home-brewing biodiesel can be [dangerous](#), said Javid Mohtasham, director of the college's Sustainability, Health and Safety Program.

"We will teach you how to do it safely and scientifically," he said. "These days, people get the recipe on the Web, they take their water heater and make biodiesel. Accidents can happen."

The dedication is at 2 p.m. at the biodiesel lab in the [Fisheries Building](#) on the [Gresham campus](#). The public is welcome.

The lab is just a part of Mohtasham's plans to create a sustainable training center at Mount Hood Community Center. An on-campus organic garden was put in this spring. For now, the garden is open only to college staff, but Mohtasham said he hoped to offer plots to the community sometime in the future.

An academic program in energy conservation also is under consideration and could be in place in a year or two, he said.

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