



Los Angeles Convention Center

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**THE LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER NOW HELPS TO CONVERT 100 GALLONS OF USED COOKING OIL INTO CLEAN, GREEN BIODIESEL FUEL**

**May 6, 2009 (LOS ANGELES, CA)** – The Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) Food Services Division now recycles nearly 100 gallons of used transfat-free canola cooking oils on a weekly basis through a new partnership with GeoGreen Biofuels, a Los Angeles-based alternative fuel production company that converts cooking oil waste into clean, green biodiesel.

“Reaching out to GeoGreen Biofuels was a natural evolution of our programs because they provide a service that has a significant and positive impact on the environment,” said Food Services Manager Duane Gornicki. “The food service industry generates significant waste in the kitchens due to the nature of our work, so any green initiatives that help in reducing our carbon footprint will have our full support,” Gornicki added.

Rather than charging a nominal pick-up fee like other vendors who typically deposit the used cooking oils into landfills or pig farms, GeoGreen Biofuels offers free recycling, and uses a “*transesterification process*” in their corporate plants to make biodiesel. The alternative fuel is then sold for uses including transportation, power generation and heating. Aside from being biodegradable and nontoxic, biodiesel also contributes noticeably less pollutants into the atmosphere.

“We take great pride in knowing that LACC is the first City building and the first convention center to partner with GeoGreen Biofuels in converting used cooking oils into biodiesel fuel,” said Pouria Abbassi, P.E., Los Angeles Convention Center General Manager & CEO. “In keeping with our vision to be an exemplary green facility, it is important that our LACC kitchen not only provides world-class food and service, but also plays an active role in contributing towards a greener tomorrow,” added Abbassi.

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## **Page 2 –LA Convention Center Now Converts Cooking Oil Waste Into Biodiesel**

### **About the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC)**

The Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) is one of the most technologically advanced convention and exhibition centers in the world. LACC attracts over 2.5 million annual visitors and is renowned internationally as a prime site for conventions, trade shows and exhibitions. With its towering emerald architectural design, the LACC is a well recognized Los Angeles landmark. An integral economic component to the Southern California area, total sales from client secondary spending tops \$1.1 billion annually, generating and sustaining over 12,000 local jobs. LACC is a model environmental-friendly facility. Its solar panels are capable of meeting the electricity needs of an estimated 100 homes, and it's recycling, energy efficiency, and water conservation programs help to conserve the environment. LACC is enrolled in the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) Green Power Program (environmentally-friendly renewable energy resources such as hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, biomass, and wind energy) at a level of 30% of the facilities consumption. The Los Angeles Convention Center is registered with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) as a member of the Los Angeles and National Chapter and holds the prestigious USGBC LEED certification for existing buildings. LACC is also a proud recipient of prestigious environmental and industry awards including several Planner's Choice Awards presented by Meeting News magazine, multiple Prime Site Awards from the Facilities and Destinations magazine, recognition for model emergency care programs, and was invited to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency's National earth conscious WasteWise Program. For more information about the Los Angeles Convention Center, please call (213) 741-1151, ext. 5319 or visit [www.lacclink.com](http://www.lacclink.com).

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