

# The **co-operative** loan fund borrower case study.

## **Blooming Futures:**

Fuelling vehicles with plant oil

Blooming Futures is a not-for-profit employee co-operative based in Brighton which aims to tackle climate change through community-scale fuel production. It specialises in modifying diesel engines to enable them to run on Pure Plant Oil (PPO) - the most sustainable motor fuel currently available - and it offers a consultancy service for agriculturalists wishing to develop PPO production.

Unlike biodiesel, PPO can be produced using simple technology and low energy processes. It is cost-effective for small scale producers, affordable for consumers, and has a much smaller environmental footprint than biodiesel. Blooming Futures is a specialist in this area and one of the most experienced PPO engineers in the UK, with a proven record of delivering a quality service and the most technically advanced solutions in the country.

As well as providing tailor-made conversions for diesel vehicles, the co-op also supplies conversion equipment enabling drivers to convert their engines themselves and run their vehicle on cheap, locally grown fuel. It also offers a telephone and email support service to accompany the conversion kits.

Since it was established in 2000, the co-operative has promoted the benefits of vehicle conversions as opposed to the production of new eco-friendly cars. Mat Bulba, director of Blooming Futures explains: "A study at the University of Utrecht averaged that the amount of pollution made by creating a new thing is roughly two hundred times the amount of pollution that a given piece of technology will

produce in its running life - so if an old car can be made to run on a sustainable fuel, it will always - by a long, long way - be a better environmental choice than the alleged eco-cars that are being produced and sold today".

Finance from The Co-operative Loan Fund is supporting an initiative developed by Blooming Futures entitled the Bio-Fleet Project, which will create a user base of 50 business vehicles in the South East of England running on PPO supplied by local agriculturalists.

The four year project (2005 - 2009) aims to demonstrate a viable green transport solution in the UK, which has already been widely demonstrated in many other EU states, and act as a powerful statement about fuel usage in the 21st century and a significant catalyst for positive social and environmental change.

The Bio-Fleet project is being supported by DEFRA, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, under the Environmental Action Fund and the Network for Social Change.

For further information contact Blooming Futures on 01273 462197, or go to [www.bloomingfutures.com](http://www.bloomingfutures.com)

For more information about The Co-operative Loan Fund please contact the fund managers, Co-operative & Community Finance, on 0117 916 6750, email [info@co-opandcommunityfinance.coop](mailto:info@co-opandcommunityfinance.coop) or visit [www.co-operativeloanfund.co.uk](http://www.co-operativeloanfund.co.uk)

