

Thanks to a recent announcement by the City of Birmingham, many could say that we can start breathing easier in the Magic City. Mayor Kincaid held a news conference at the city's downtown fueling station yesterday to announce that the city had signed a \$5 million contract with Allied Energy of Birmingham to provide biodiesel fuel for all city vehicles currently using diesel. Both [NBC 13](#) and the [Birmingham Business Journal](#) filed reports yesterday. The new biodiesel blend would include 20% soy bean, canola oil, rapeseed and poultry fat.

According to city officials, there would not be an increase in costs to run the city's 600+ utility vehicles. The city views the changeover as a first step towards attracting additional industry to the region, creating jobs for locals. The timing of this move is ironic, since [just last week](#) Birmingham once again made the list of the worst polluted cities in the country per the American Lung Association at #4.