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Biodiesel plant opens in Adrian

ADRIAN - Gov. Jennifer Granholm celebrated the grand opening of NextDiesel, Michigan's largest biodiesel manufacturing facility, Tuesday in Adrian.

The plant is the first alternative energy facility to be built in one of Michigan's 10 Alternative Energy Renaissance Zones.

"NextDiesel is just the latest addition to our already robust renewable and alternative energy portfolio, which includes 20 biofuel plants that are operating or in development," Gov. Granholm said. "These advancements will power our economic transformation and make Michigan the state that ends our country's dependence on foreign oil."

The 30,000-square-foot facility represents a \$20 million dollar investment. NextDiesel will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week on three shifts and is expected to create up to 25 new jobs. The first phase will allow the plant to produce 20 million gallons of biodiesel annually, with the potential to manufacture up to 100 million gallons annually. Multiple feedstocks from soybean and palm oil to chicken fat and beef tallow will be used to make the biodiesel.

Potential NextDiesel consumers include school districts, municipalities, construction companies and marinas.

Renaissance zones are geographic areas that are virtually tax-free for any business or resident that moves into or is located in one of the zones.

"Companies like NextDiesel are investing in Michigan because they are confident our state is the right place for them to thrive," Gov. Granholm said. "We must take advantage of our rich natural resources, our agriculture sector, and our high concentration of engineering and science talent and make smart decisions that will diversify our economy."
