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Turning glycerin waste into profit

Glycerin is a clear, colorless viscous liquid derived primarily from natural and petrochemical feedstocks. Traditionally, glycerin is found in everything from foods, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics (USP grade glycerin) to paints, coatings and other industrial types of applications (technical grade glycerin).

With the rise in renewable fuel production over the years, particularly biodiesel, comes an overabundance of off-grade glycerin. This type of glycerin, also referred to as "crude glycerin" is a byproduct of biodiesel and is about 80% pure. It accounts for one-tenth of every gallon of biodiesel produced. While the demand for glycerin in general has remained stable, the oversupply within the global market has created volatile pricing throughout the industry. The abundant supply of crude glycerin is a direct result of the increase in biodiesel production and without refinement, this impure form of glycerin must either be disposed of in a certain amount of time, according to the EPA, or be sold off in the open market for a minimal amount due to the water, methanol, and salt content.

The current price volatility of glycerin, primarily brought on by biodiesel production, has resulted in tremendous changes in the glycerin refining sector. The demand for refined glycerin, technical grade and higher, has risen and is starting to stabilize. It is for this reason that biodiesel equipment manufacturers such as SRS Engineering Corporation located in Murrieta, California, have focused much of their attention on glycerin refinement, helping biodiesel plants turn a stronger profit with their finished glycerin, thus avoiding high disposal fees or minimal returns from their crude glycerin. By further refining the glycerin to a >97% purity range, plants can now sell off their glycerin for a much higher return and create a new profit center for their plant.

SRS Engineering Corporation is a biodiesel equipment manufacturer dedicated to creating extremely efficient and highly profitable biodiesel plants. Their customers learn how to generate profits by refining their glycerin on site rather than selling crude glycerin on the open market. SRS' glycerin refining system creates a >97% technical grade glycerin as opposed to the average in the biodiesel industry which ranges between the 80 and 90% purity range.

For more information about SRS' glycerin refining system, visit the website at www.srsbiodiesel.com or email at info@srsengineering.com