

# Red River Commerce Park to get bio-diesel plant

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A Houston-based alternative resources corporation gave \$178,506.50 to the Red River Redevelopment Authority on Friday to purchase 22 acres for a bio-diesel refining plant.

Duane Lavery, the executive director of the Red River Redevelopment Authority, told members of the Redevelopment Authority Board at a meeting Monday that the Red River Bio-Diesel corporation plans a facility to convert organic waste, mostly poultry by-products and fat, into diesel fuel.

Lavery later said he has been in negotiations with the parent company, the Renewable Resources Group, Inc. of Houston, to locate the facility at the Red River Commerce Park since last summer.

He said their original plan was for three different "modules" with buildings of 5,000 to 10,000 square feet, and an investment of between \$10-12 million dollars.

He said in light of their decision to buy the large tract, they very well may have enlarged the scope of the project.

The Redevelopment Authority was also impressed the company has bought the land outright, rather than using a real estate option, said Bill Cork, the Redevelopment Authority's Deputy Director of Operations.

Lavery said the H.E. Wright Construction Company of Texarkana has been hired by Red River Bio-diesel and is already clearing the site and getting ready for test borings.

"They should be turning dirt within the year," said Lavery.

He said the company expects the Red River plant to supply bio-diesel for the middle section of the U.S.

More details as to the scope of the project will probably be available later, he added.

The bio-diesel process turns new and recycled vegetable and animal fats and oils into a clean burning fuel.

Lavery said alternative fuel technology is getting more attention because of environmental concerns and the price of gasoline.