

About the Minnesota Clean Air Choice™ Scholarship

Sponsored by the American Lung Association in Minnesota and Minnesota Soybean Growers Association.

Diesel engines consume approximately 837 million gallons of fuel every year in Minnesota. For the same load and engine conditions, diesel engines spew out 100 times more sooty particles than gasoline engines. One solution to diesel pollution is biodiesel, an alternative fuel made and sold in Minnesota. In 2005, Minnesota became the first state to require nearly all of the diesel fuel sold here to contain a two percent blend of biodiesel. This requirement has now increased to 5 percent, and will increase to 10 percent in 2012, and 20 percent in 2015. Using higher blends of biodiesel helps to clear the air even more, which is why the American Lung Association in Minnesota supports biodiesel as a Clean Air Choice™.

The American Lung Association in Minnesota and Minnesota Soybean Growers Association are sponsoring the 5th Annual Minnesota Clean Air Choice Scholarship essay contest to help raise awareness of this important and emerging alternative fuel in our state. It is open to all high school seniors in Minnesota who wish to continue their education after high school.

Eligibility: All high school seniors in Minnesota with plans to attend postsecondary education are eligible to submit entries to the Minnesota Clean Air Choice Scholarship.

Due: All entries must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 to the American Lung Association in Minnesota. Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted. All entries become the property of American Lung Association in Minnesota and cannot be returned.

Submitting: Mailed, faxed, and emailed entries must include the entry form. Please do not include your name or school name on your essay to ensure fairness in judging. Online entries are preferred.

- **Email:** To submit via email, attach the essay (in MS Word or PDF format) and entry form to the email and send to: robert.moffitt@lungmn.org
- **Mail:** 490 Concordia Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103 (Attn: Biodiesel Essay Contest)
- **Fax:** (651) 227-5459 with entry form as cover sheet, (Attn: Biodiesel Essay Contest)

Essay word limit: 1,000 words

Topics: Create your own biodiesel topic or choose one of following:

- 1) Biodiesel's benefits to Minnesota
- 2) Expanding biodiesel's use: opportunities and challenges
- 3) How can you impact biodiesel use in your area

Judging criteria: All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Accuracy of information cited in essay
- Demonstrating a thorough understanding of biodiesel and its uses
- Creative thinking and original ideas on biodiesel
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation

Prizes: Two scholarships will be awarded. The first place essay writer will receive a \$1,000 scholarship; the second place essay writer will receive a \$500 scholarship.

Winner notification: Winners will be notified no later than May 20, 2011. A news release and webpage on CleanAirChoice.org with the winner's photos and/or essays will be submitted to area newspapers.