

Fill 'er up – with fries, please

■ Miriam Meister

Who would have thought indulging in a serving of hot chips could help save the planet?

Customers at Burger Wisconsin in Northland are doing a green deed when buying the deep-fried treat – the oil the chips are cooked in eventually fuels cars and other machines.

Owner George Zlatkoff recently started dealing with EnviroCar, a company that buys vegetable oil in bulk, which is onsold to customers at a competitive rate. When it is time to replace the oil in its customers' fryers, waste oil is collected, refined and filtered before being sold as Envirofuel.

"I quite like the idea that they are quite visible with their presence in the biofuel sector," Mr Zlatkoff says.

He likes to be a green businessman and wherever possible uses environmentally sustainable business practices, such as packing burgers and chips in bags made from recycled paper.

EnviroCar director Dave Renwick says his company could be a vital part of meeting the

public's requirements for fuel.

"Our whole ethos, if you like, is using recovered materials and turning that into energy."

He says Envirofuel produces fewer emissions and pollutants than normal diesel.

A standard diesel car fitted with a conversion kit can run on recycled oils, which cost 69 cents a litre. Tests have shown that fuel consumption is between 15 and 25 per cent better than the diesel equivalent.

Mr Renwick says Envirofuel is not only suitable for cars, but can be used in most diesel engines provided appropriate modifications have been made.

"It's got lots of applications."

About 150 cars are running on Envirofuel in greater Wellington.

Used oil from Burger Wisconsin in Wadestown is also turned into Envirofuel.



GREEN MACHINE: Burger Wisconsin Northland owner George Zlatkoff, left, fills up Dave Renwick's EnviroCar with canola oil. Burger Wisconsin recycles its oil and Mr Renwick's company turns it into fuel. Photo: Crispin Anderlini