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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[Mobile Biodiesel Unit Powered By Solar Thermal](#)**

*Golden, CO August 24, 2011* – The CU Biodiesel project at University of Colorado Boulder has selected SunTrac solar thermal (SHW) panels to power its biodiesel reactor on wheels. In an effort to promote biodiesel as a safe and efficient alternative to conventional fuels, CU Biodiesel set out to construct a trailer that would allow them to travel across the US, producing their own fuel along the way.

Mounted on a trailer pulled behind a Ford F-250 (diesel) pick-up truck, the CU Bio-Diesel trailer will feature a roof-mounted SunTrac panel that can be tilted to provide 140 to 212 degree Fahrenheit water for the “transesterification” reaction and dewatering phases of biodiesel production. Jan Laesecke from CU Biodiesel said: “We couldn’t have done this with any other solar thermal technology. Flat plates couldn’t produce the efficiencies at higher process temperatures we needed, and evacuated tubes (ETC) are too fragile to withstand the extreme conditions on the road. SunTrac’s design and durability make it customizable for a wide variety of applications.”

The trailer will be powered by an onboard diesel generator for the pumps, lights, solar tracking, and whatever else may require power. While the SunTrac panel does not directly power the trailer, its purpose is to provide 'process heat'. CU Biodiesel continues to seek a donation of its own diesel truck, but benefits from the loan of a truck from its supporters. The CU Biodiesel trailer will make its public debut at the Louisville, CO Sustainability Tour on October 2, 2011.

SunTrac panels are highly weather tolerant. SunTrac’s flat plate design, 5mm thick, low iron, tempered plate glass and vulcanized EPDM bushings protect the reflective parabolas from the elements. The tracker motor and control chip are also protected by their own durable enclosure. The glass cover facilitates automatic snow removal once the sun comes out. The TC27 is 8 feet in length, 4 feet wide and weighs 200 pounds, so it can be mounted on a trailer or mobile home.

SunTrac panels are highly efficient at process temperatures, from 140 to 250 degrees Fahrenheit. Solar hot water is far more efficient than its famous cousin solar electric, (aka “photo-voltaic”) and is useful in a variety of commercial applications, including space heating, hospitals, hotels, agriculture, food processing and power generation. SunTrac Solar hot water panels are manufactured in Golden, Colorado. All parts are sourced in the USA.

**[www.SunTracSolar.com](http://www.SunTracSolar.com)**



## **CU Biodiesel**

CU Biodiesel is a non-profit student organization dedicated to advancing the use and knowledge of biodiesel, a vegetable based and clean-burning alternative to petroleum diesel. Their efforts are focused on the University of Colorado at Boulder and the surrounding community. We address the commonly held concern that the use of petroleum diesel is done at the detriment of our health and environment and necessitates a dependence on foreign oil. CU Biodiesel strives to educate the private and public sectors about the production and implementation of biodiesel and simultaneously promote it as a renewable and valuable resource. CU Biodiesel is asking for your help to spread the word and encourage CU to keep their oil local. Not only would this reduce CU's carbon footprint but it would also save the University thousands of dollars a year. ([www.cubiodiesel.org](http://www.cubiodiesel.org))