

## Biodiesel fuel firm's plant expected to bring 30 jobs to Lee County

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A biodiesel fuel company is expecting to create 30 new jobs in Lee County, Va., with a major recycling operation. Synergy Biofuels officials announced Tuesday they are investing \$1 million in a biodiesel fuel production plant in Pennington Gap.

Ankit Patel, CEO of Synergy, said the facility will employ 30 people.

"We're looking at making Lee County one of the leading biodiesel providers," Patel said.

The business will be located at the former Super Sack building along state Route 630 in Lee County. Synergy officials say they will convert used vegetable oil and into biodiesel fuel.

Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine said in a news release the production facility will fit perfectly with his current energy plan.

"Development of biodiesel and other renewable fuels is critical to our nation's longevity," Kaine said.

The Virginia General Assembly passed a comprehensive energy bill in 2006.

Lee County leaders are also excited about having such a business, especially one of this size. "I would much rather have 10 companies with 50 jobs, so if one plant closes, it won't devastate a community. So we're kind of spreading that out, 30 jobs here, 40 jobs here. It adds up," said Tim Long, director of Lee County Economic Development.

The new jobs will pay between \$9 and \$10 an hour, and the plant is expected to be operational by March.

Synergy officials say they picked the Lee County site for their new facility, over locations in New Jersey and Michigan.

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