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Biodiesel from liposuctions



photo: scanpix/afp

The Norwegian company Venøy & Co wants to produce biodiesel using human fat from an American hospital group.

We all thought that the obesity epidemic was a terrible thing, however, there might be positive side effects to it – we just have to make the most of it!

The Norwegian Lauri Venøy has found out that excess human fat, particularly a problem in the USA, can be put to use. In a relatively simple process, human fat can be converted into biodiesel in order to cover parts of the increasing energy consumption evident in the transport sector, writes the Norwegian newspaper “Dagens Næringsliv”.

According to the newspaper, the Norwegian company Venøy & Co is negotiating a contract with the gigantic American hospital group Jackson Memorial with a view to take delivery of fat from the numerous liposuctions carried out on overweight Americans every day by the hospital group. The contract involves a weekly delivery of

11,500 litres of human fat, which converts into 10,000 litres of biodiesel.

The Norwegian regards human fat a lasting source of energy and is considering whether or not to urge people to eat more fat in order to be able to cover a larger part of our energy consumption in this way.

In Norway, biodiesel is almost exclusively produced by means of fish oil and deep fat. Human fat is currently not used in Norway; they do so much skiing that very few people are in fact overweight.

An estimated 60 % of all Americans are overweight and around 30 % of those are regarded as heavily overweight, a recent study from Harvard University reveals. Previously, it was presumed that the number of heavily overweight people was only around 20 % but those numbers were based on telephone interviews, which the Harvard researchers consider rather useless as women tend to lie themselves a few kilos lighter and men a few centimetres taller, when asked to describe their physical characteristics. TS