

# Brothers plan to fill up tank at McDonald's

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ing for alternative fuels. Ethanol, which is made from corn, is being mandated out of Washington, D.C. Hybrid vehicles, those running on a combination of batteries and gasoline, are in high demand.

"It's really relevant because of the cost of fuel, whether they want to save the environment or just save on the cost of fuel," Steve said.

Plus, its smell is less bothersome than fossil fuels.

"It smells like French fries," Steve said.

Nate Petre's company, Veggie Wheels of Inglewood, Calif., donated the Suburban to the Matt brothers. Petre said vehicles converted to run on vegetable oil must have diesel engines. Costs range from \$1,200 to \$3,200 to have necessary filters and equipment installed.

But with the hydrogen boost, the normally gas-hogging Suburban should get 27 miles per gallon on the highway, Petre said.

He calls running on veg-

etable oil a "back-to-the-future" experience.

"It started when the engine was invented. Rudolph Diesel (inventor) drove his tractor to the World's Fair in 1900 on vegetable oil. This is what the engine was meant to do," Petre said.

In today's modern engine, gasoline-operated vehicles release carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gases.

Steve, 22, is very concerned about global warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change a few months ago issued its most direct statement to date linking a warming planet to human activities, such as driving cars.

But the problem is overwhelming and confusing to many people his age.

"That's how I felt. Use your common sense. Change starts with you. Think about what you do in your daily life," Steve said. Then move to bigger challenges in your neighborhood, town, state, country and world.

While the Matts are busy



Submitted Photo  
**Steve Matt, left, and brother, Daniel, are set to travel North America in a 1984 Suburban, fueling it only with used vegetable oil from restaurants.**

traveling the land and gassing up at fast-food restaurants, they plan to piece together a documentary using interviews

with people they meet on this low-emission journey. Daily clips will be posted on [www.one-earth.com](http://www.one-earth.com), a site

## GAS-SAVING TIPS

### MAXIMIZING FUEL EFFICIENCY

- Don't slam on the brakes. Braking kills a car's momentum. Jackrabbit start-and-stop driving can increase fuel consumption by as much as 37 percent.
- Time your driving to allow you to coast through green lights.
- Never idle. Some states require commercial truck drivers to shut their engines off when stopped for longer periods of time. Idling eats up gasoline and money.
- Avoid speeding. Every 5 mph you drive over 60 mph, you lose about 7 percent fuel efficiency. This is due to wind resistance.
- Leave unnecessary items at home. The heavier a vehicle is, the more energy (gas) it takes to move it.
- Inflate tires. For every two PSI your tires are below the manufacturer's recommendation, fuel consumption increases nearly a percentage point.

SOURCE: *Mother Jones Magazine*

launched by Steve in May 2006.

"The idea was born out of frustration I have. What can I do? There are really no resources out that are organized by geography and lifestyle," Steve said.

One-Earth, based out of Steve's home in Brooklyn, allows users to post information about local resources to help lessen their impact on the

environment.

"People need locally applicable information like where to purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs in their neighborhood, how to compost in their climate, the location of the nearest farmer's market, which plants are native to their environment, where to purchase locally grown organic food, how to install solar panels, how to start a recycling program in their neighborhood, what construction companies practice sustainability and how to contact a municipal or state representative," Steve said.

With ideals in tact and a mission to eventually live in a world no longer dependent on fossil fuels, Steve and Daniel are taking to the road to prove a point.

And when they pull over at a rest station, with a McDonald's on the left side and Chevron on the right, they'll head for the back of the burger joint while everyone else lines up at the pump.

You may contact the reporter at [hays@havasunews.com](mailto:hays@havasunews.com).

## Pair to set off on road trip fueled by vegetable oil

By MICHAEL HAYS  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Steve Matt wants to save the world, one batch of used French-fry grease at a time.

Starting Monday, he and his brother, Daniel, will drive across North America in a 1984 Suburban equipped to run on vegetable oil. He plans to fill up the tank at McDonald's restaurants along the way.

The Matt brothers, whose parents live in Lake Havasu City, will travel for 45 days. They will start in Venice, Calif., with stops along the way in Utah and Canada.

They'll chat with musician Willie Nelson, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, actor Robert Redford and corporate officers of Seventh Generation, a company that manufactures environmentally sound household products in

Vermont.

Why is vegetable oil their fuel of choice?

"It reduces emissions by up to 50 percent," Steve said. And with a hydrogen boost system installed, another 15 percent is knocked off.

As the price of gasoline sets record highs across the U.S., consumers are look-

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