

2-15-2016

## Biodiesel Drives Hannah Goemann '17

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\\_news](http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news)

---

### Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Biodiesel Drives Hannah Goemann '17" (2016). *University Relations News Archive*. 2295.  
[http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\\_news/2295](http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/2295)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the External Relations at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Relations News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact [skulann@morris.umn.edu](mailto:skulann@morris.umn.edu).

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**MORRIS**

Contact:

Melissa Vangsness, Director of Communications  
Phone: [320-589-6414](tel:320-589-6414), [melissav@morris.umn.edu](mailto:melissav@morris.umn.edu)

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer  
Phone: [320-589-6068](tel:320-589-6068), [jrray@morris.umn.edu](mailto:jrray@morris.umn.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**[Biodiesel Drives Hannah Goemann '17](#)**

*Summary: Her work will help her reach her professional goals and put the campus one step closer to carbon neutrality.*

MORRIS, Minnesota (February 15, 2016)—What drives Hannah Goemann '17, Wells? The possibility of biodiesel production at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The junior biochemistry major is partnering with the Office of Sustainability (OOS), Facilities Management, Dining Services, and the Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, and Chemistry Disciplines to research the feasibility of a campus production project. Goemann's work will help her reach her professional goals and could put the campus one step closer to carbon neutrality.

Last month Goemann became the OOS sustainability implementation - biodiesel assessment intern. Her job is to conduct a preliminary assessment for the potential of biodiesel production at Morris and to develop a report detailing how a biodiesel pilot could work. According to Goemann, that means "collecting data and crunching numbers to figure out if we have the space, resources, people power, and interest to put together a system like this."

"This is the first time we've thought about [biodiesel] at all, so I've got to do a lot of initial figuring out of what kind of vehicles we have, how much diesel we use in a year, how much we would be able to produce from the oils used on campus, and other things like that," she says. "If it turns out to be a worthwhile and sustainable thing, we can move on from there."

Prior to beginning her internship, Goemann hadn't thought much about biodiesel. In just a few weeks, though, she's been inspired by the work of other campuses and touched by the campus's "overwhelming, positive response." She also sees a direct path between this work and that which she hopes to pursue.

"My goal is to work with the biochemistry of renewable resources," she says. "This project has already helped me further develop my communication skills by networking with a diverse array of people and my organizational skills from being able to take so much information and put it into a coherent statement. It's cool to be integrating classroom learning with practical work."

Goemann's project could have ramifications on campuswide carbon neutrality goals as well. Morris aims to reach carbon neutrality by 2020, and it has decreased its carbon footprint by 40 percent since 2005. According to Sustainability Director Troy Goodnough, using a gallon of biodiesel derived from campus waste oils as an alternative to regular diesel would cut the carbon footprint of the fuel by 90 percent; using this biodiesel to fuel fleet vehicles, then, would help Morris reduce transportation emissions, and thus its overall footprint. While it's too soon to say just how much biodiesel production could affect the campus's carbon neutrality, Goemann and Goodnough agree this is another step in the right direction.

"This pilot project helps us take our first steps towards a biodiesel production system," he says. "This is another great project between students, faculty, and Facilities Management staff."

[View this story electronically.](#)

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.

###