



Ecoqueremos: labour integration recycling used oil to turn it into biodiesel

LOCATION: Córdoba

DURATION: 1'28"

SUMMARY: The Ecoqueremos Cooperative in Córdoba is turning vegetable oil into biodiesel. This company not only cares for the environment, it also works as a special employment centre. It started in 2012 aiming to promote the social and labour integration of people with some type of intellectual or developmental disability. Their business model has aroused the interest of other associations in Spain.

VTR:

Everything starts depositing a bottle of used oil in one of the more than a hundred containers of the Ecoqueremos cooperative, distributed around the province of Córdoba. Later, this oil is cleaned and turned into biodiesel.

Francisco Molina
President of 'Ecoqueremos'

"That oil we collect is dirty. We clean it, add it methanol and soda, and that miraculous process separates oil molecules that in on side will turn into biodiesel and in the other into glycerine."

This way nothing is wasted. They sell glycerine to soap companies and commercialize biodiesel among the members of the cooperative.

Francisco Molina
President of 'Ecoqueremos'

"That biodiesel is used in vehicles; although we also have clients who use it in furnaces or diesel furnaces."

In addition, this cooperative is also a Special Employment Centre. 70% of their worker members have some type of intellectual or developmental disability.

David Medina
Worker member at
'Ecoqueremos'

"Along with my partners or by myself I empty them and drain them for a few minutes, and later I take them to the pool."

Ana Isabel Barroso
Worker member at
'Ecoqueremos'

"I work as a saleswoman in the street: collecting oil, introducing the company, making presentations of the company in high schools and installing containers."

Their business model has aroused the interest of other associations for people with some type of disability in Spain. For the moment, they have reached an agreement with the Neuer Cooperative in Catalonia, where they are going to install an automatic plant for oil recycling.

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