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Two plants to launch biodiesel production in Adelanto

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ADELANTO

• Two alternative energy companies are planning to begin local biodiesel production in coming months — operations city officials say could pave the way for more “green” industries but will likely generate little local revenue.

Canada-based Sunx Energy is opening a 21,500-square-foot biodiesel plant, and San Diego-based Dynasty Energy is opening a 20,164-square-foot biodiesel plant, according to Adelanto Associate Planner Linda Blackburn. Both facilities are located west of Highway 395 near the intersection of Beaver Road and Commerce Way.

“It’s always good to have green industries coming to town because it encourages other green industries to come into town,” Adelanto City Manager Jim Hart said.

The plants will likely require about 5 to 50 employees each, but Hart said the companies will likely bring in some of their own workers.

“It’s nice to have a building full,” Hart said, “but for the city itself, there’s not a great financial impact for us.”

Biodiesel, often made from vegetable oils and animal fats, runs in conventional diesel engines, producing up to 80 percent fewer carbon emissions compared to petroleum diesel. The biodiesel industry is small but growing rapidly, with 2007 production levels doubling levels from 2006, according to the Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center.

Sunx purchased its \$2 million facility on nine acres from Alex Mann of AMann Properties RE LP, who built the space in 2007 but halted his plans for operating a biodiesel plant, Blackburn said.

Sunx plans to expand Mann’s scope for a biodiesel plant, which previously projected an output of about 3.5 million gallons of biodiesel fuel per year, Blackburn said. Dynasty’s plant is slated to produce about 15 million gallons of biodiesel per year, she said.

Both facilities are working on obtaining additional permits and making preparations before starting production, according to Blackburn.

Dynasty Energy did not return a call for comment Monday. Sunx declined to comment on more specific plans, which a spokesman said will be announced in January.





DAVID PARDO, DAILY PRESS NEW PLANT: Sunx Energy Incorporated, a Canadian alternative energy company, is preparing to open a biodiesel plant at a 21,500-square-foot industrial facility in the 16300 block of Beaver Road in Adelanto.