

Grease to Greece - Bangers on a Fat-Finding Mission.

This Saturday 10 eccentric British rally teams will line up in London at the start of the greenest and grubbiest car rally ever seen. The gruelling 2500 mile drive to Athens will be powered entirely by waste cooking oil that teams will have to scavenge from restaurants and burger bars en route.

The 2-week Grease to Greece challenge will be the first "Fat-Finding" mission ever tried across Europe, and teams will need to use their initiative and ingenuity to secure their fuel supplies as they travel, the only rule being that they mustn't use fossil fuels.

Organiser, Andy Pag (34, from London), who last year drove from the UK to Timbuktu in a lorry powered by biodiesel made from waste chocolate, said "The aim is to see if it's possible to travel long distances without filling up at petrol stations. It's not going to be easy, but all the teams are determined to give it their best shot. We are in the hands of Europe's kebab shops."

Some teams have converted their cars to run on vegetable oil, while others will be using a portable FuelPod2 domestic biodiesel processor provided by sponsors Green Fuels to convert the vegetable oil they find into biodiesel.

"The FuelPod is the easiest and safest processor on the market, and the biodiesel it produces can be used in any diesel car, without needing to convert the engine" said James Hygate the Managing Director of Green Fuels Ltd, who will be driving a new VW 4x4 on the rally proving that biodiesel isn't just for old bangers.

The organisers' website, www.fatfinding.com explains that cheap motoring is just one of the advantages of using waste vegetable oil. Drivers claim they have better performance and quieter engines, but best of all, when waste oil is collected straight from the restaurant and used as fuel, it has a zero carbon footprint.

Pag, whose 1995 Peugeot 405 is converted to run on waste vegetable oil said "Since they changed UK laws last year it's legal and tax free to use vegetable oil and homemade biodiesel as a fuel. Every time I hear people complaining about fuel prices I tell them to get down to their chip shop and fill up for free!"

The rally finishes in Athens on August 27th at a prize giving ceremony hosted by the British Ambassador where the winning team will be presented with the Golden Lard Trophy.

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Background

Andy Pag successfully completed the world's first Carbon Negative Expedition in 2007 driving from the UK to Timbuktu in a chocolate powered lorry. www.biotruck.co.uk

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Green Fuels Ltd are the UK's largest producers or domestic biodiesel processors. Their FuelPod range of processors is designed to the highest European safety standards and is as easy to use as a washing machine. They are currently used by 1000's of families in the UK to make biodiesel in the garage or the garden shed. www.greenfuels.co.uk

Oilybits provide a range of specialist filtering, plumbing and pumping solutions to domestic users, industry and expeditions. Their centrifuge system will be used by teams on the rally to purify the

waste oil they collect on-route and is the world's first mobile purification system for cars.

www.oilybits.com

Rough Guides are providing each team with a set of guidebooks, maps and phrasebooks, including the latest guide to Greece, which was the first Rough Guide to be published in 1982. The phrasebooks will be invaluable to teams attempting to explain to a Croatian Kebab shop owner that they need his grease. www.roughguides.com

SmartVeg provide the most sophisticated engine conversion kit which allows diesel cars old and new to run on vegetable oil. Their kits dramatically reduce the cost of motoring. The SmartVeg team will also be using pioneering new bio-lubricants in their engine www.smartveg.com

SpeedFerries are providing cross channel ferry transport for the rally. They have steadily improved their operational procedures to reduce their carbon emissions. www.speedferries.com