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50,000 gallons of cooking oil recycled in Dubai everyday

JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN DUBAI MUNICIPALITY AND BLUE RECYCLES USED OIL FROM EATERIES

DUBAI
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Chief Reporter

Fried foods aren't just bad for your heart. The fats, oil and grease they are cooked in can also be detrimental to the environment as they end up clogging storm sewers and waterways every time you pour them down the drain.

Every day, 14,000 eateries across Dubai discard roughly 80,000 gallons (302,832 litres) of cooking fats, oil and grease, enough to fill 1,600 average-sized bathtubs.

Thanks to a public-private partnership called Envirol inked in 2006 between Dubai Municipality and Blue, an eco firm owned by Al Serkal Group, up to 50,000 gallons of the greasy waste in Dubai is collected from 7,000 eateries and transported to Blue's recycling plant in Al Warsan.

Every gallon of oil and grease recycled is one less gallon being dumped in Dubai landfills and the city's sewers.

Grimy grease and oils from eateries and home kitchens dumped into storm sewers around the world are estimated to cause 70 per cent of drain and sewer blockages that cost millions of dollars to unclog.

The Blue recycling process converts 70 per cent of the oil waste to clean water for irrigation, a further 20 per cent is



Ahmed Ramzan/Gulf News

■ Mohammad Al Kaabi (left) and Rafael Sanjurjo Lopez.

converted to fertiliser while the final 10 per cent is turned into a refined oil to be converted to environment-friendly biodiesel.

Blue is set to expand its recycling plant to double its daily recycling capacity to 100,000 gallons per day to prepare for a growing Dubai food sector that is expected to reach 19,000 eateries by 2020.

Mohammad Al Kaabi, managing director of Blue, said the firm's push to widen its capacity for sustainable waste management continues the tradition of the Al Serkal Group's founding family which pioneered communications, water and electricity provision in the country.

The firm which collected just 200 gallons a day in the early 1990s has grown through awareness campaigns and support from the municipality.

"The key was the support of the municipality, without it, we would not have been successful," Al Kaabi told *Gulf News* from Blue's headquarters, add-



Courtesy: Blue

■ Used oil being recycled at the Blue's plant at Al Warsan, one of the by-products and a tanker that transports collected oil.

ing that the partners hosted "joint campaigns with hotels and restaurants to show them the right and wrong practices".

Blue has now convinced more than half of the eatery sector in Dubai to ensure they properly dispose of their waste oil though on-premises grease traps which are then pumped out by private collection firms and the oily contents trans-

ported by registered tanker-trucks to Blue's recycling plant.

Mathilde Allard Khalifa, Blue corporate social responsibility coordinator, said the firm launched its latest community outreach campaign in January called Best Kitchen to visit eateries not included in the collection plan and to explain to them the benefits of helping the environment.

