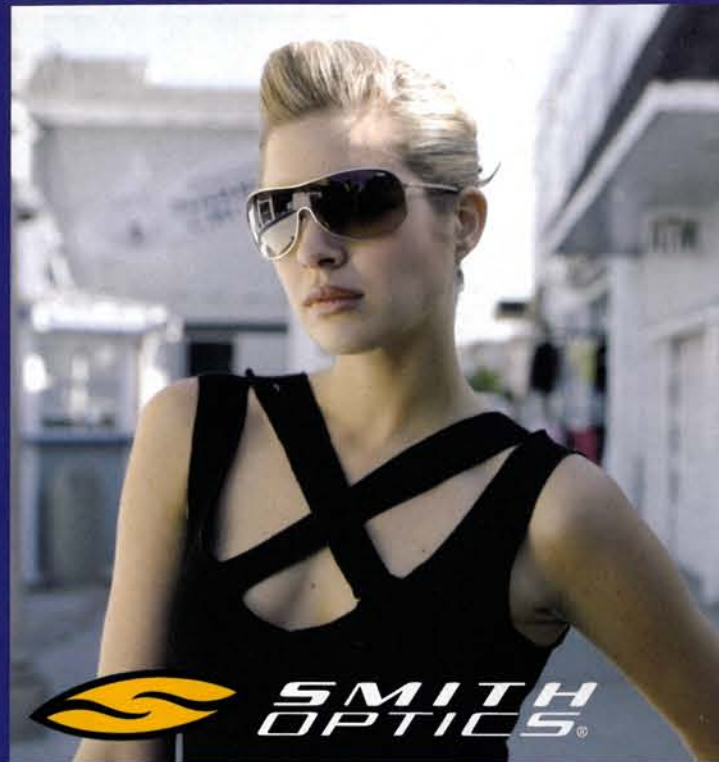




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[ENERGY]

Is Green Power for Real?

ON AN OVERCAST July morning, several hundred people gathered in a vacant field on the Puyallup Indian Reservation to get a glimpse of what Issaquah-based Green Power, Inc., billed as the future of energy.

Two Green Power employees combined finely shredded organic household waste with used motor oil, lime and aluminum silicate. The resulting syrupy, black goo was poured into a machine on the back of a tractor-trailer. Three minutes later, a hose started to spew out what appeared to be lite-beer-colored, ready-to-burn diesel fuel.

According to Green Power CEO Michael P. Spitzauer, this demonstration of a process known as "catalytic pressureless depolymerization" will revolutionize the economy. With \$80 million in private funding raised so far, Spitzauer says that he plans to roll out 1,500 diesel plants across the country in the next seven years.

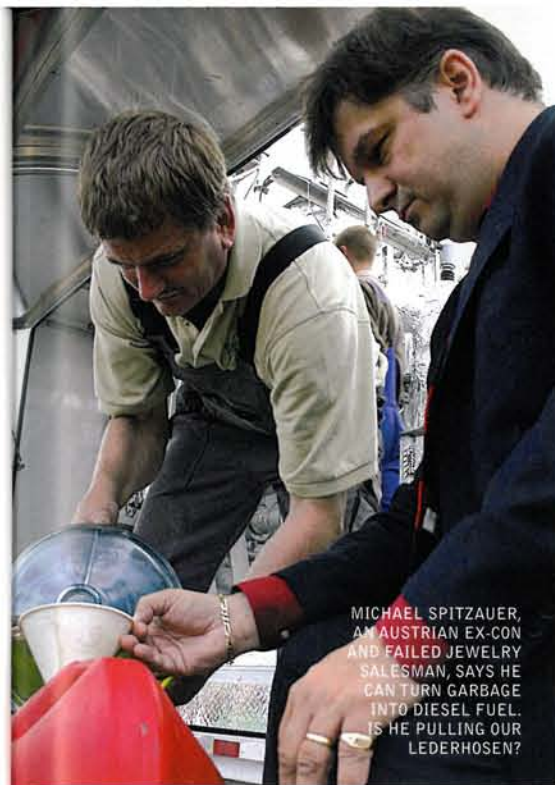
Think it sounds too good to be true? You're not alone. Skeptics continue to wonder if this revolutionary technology really exists.

The waste-to-energy technique—created by German inventor Dr. Christian Koch, who also is part of Green Power's management team—is currently in use in the German cities of Eppendorf and Buitenheim, Spitzauer says. He also says that his company runs a diesel plant in Monterrey, Mexico, that produces 900 liters of diesel an hour. Details, however, about Koch's secret process remain hazy and unverified.

It isn't just the technology that is controversial. Spitzauer's past run-ins with the law have left him with more than a few credibility issues.

According to court records, Spitzauer was convicted of fraud in 1992 and served three years in an Austrian prison. He moved to the United States and married a U.S. citizen in 1995, but later was found guilty of falsifying his immigration forms by not acknowledging his earlier fraud conviction, earning him a six-month jail sentence.

From 1997 to 2001, the Austrian government unsuccessfully attempted to extra-



MICHAEL SPITZAUER, AN AUSTRIAN EX-CON AND FAILED JEWELRY SALESMAN, SAYS HE CAN TURN GARBAGE INTO DIESEL FUEL. IS HE PULLING OUR LEDERHOSEN?

dite Spitzauer on yet another set of charges, one of which was the fraudulent use of his best man's credit card to pay for Spitzauer's \$30,000 wedding. The *Seattle Times* also reported that Spitzauer was wanted by Austrian authorities for allegedly defrauding people of \$720,000 as part of an apparent Nigerian oil scam. In recent years, Spitzauer has been involved in a federal bankruptcy case in the Northwest involving Talidesigns, Inc., a jewelry and clothing company that he founded in 2002.

The news of his legal problems helped scuttle a deal that Spitzauer was making with city officials in Cheyenne, Wyo., to build a plant on a nearby Indian reservation. The *Seattle Times* also reported that a Texas investment group recently pulled out of a deal to support Green Power.

Spitzauer says that his checkered past has no bearing on Green Power and accuses "big oil" of being behind a smear campaign to ruin his credibility. He says that he has all the money he needs to build the first plant on the Puyallup Reservation, although he refuses to name any of his private investors. If the tribe and Green Power reach a development deal, Spitzauer says that he will open the plant early next year, employing 125 people.

Despite the negative publicity, the Austrian ex-con and jewelry salesman maintains that his company can change the world. "I will now go on a campaign to prove that this technology works," he says, "and I will tell everybody about what has happened to me." —*Todd Matthews*

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