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TIME **NEXT**

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

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A FUEL WITH FLAVOR

IN A TWO-FOR-ONE GREEN MOVE, SPAIN IS RECYCLING USED OLIVE OIL INTO BIODIESEL



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1 - **R**OW AFTER ENDLESS ROW OF OLIVE
trees stretch for kilometers over the
5 - rolling hills of Andalusia in southern
Spain, their branches supporting
about 40% of the world's olive supply—be-
tween 800,000 and 1 million tons a year.

10 - But while other European countries
have for more than a decade turned the oil
from similar oil-producing plants into the
environmentally friendly fuel called
biodiesel, Spain has been slow to reap simi-
lar environmental rewards—until now. With
European Union deadlines for alternative
15 - fuels looming—2% of fossil fu-
els replaced with alternatives
by 2005; 5.75% replaced by
2010—a crop of Spanish
biodiesel plants is now in the
20 - works. Spain's late start may
give it a crucial advantage.
Rather than relying on virgin
oil like its neighbors Germany
and France, Spain is convert-
ing used cooking oil into
25 - biodiesel. So it's not only pro-
ducing clean, sustainable ener-
gy, it's recycling.

30 - Austria is the pioneer in the
field of recycled biodiesel—it
was the first to test biodiesel
produced with recycled frying
oil, in 1983. About 135
McDonald's restaurants in
Austria collect 1,400 tons of re-
35 - cycled frying oil a year, which is
then turned into biodiesel used
to fuel buses in the city of Graz.
Now Spain is catching up. In
February, the first petrol sta-
40 - tion to pump biodiesel to
Spaniards opened in the
Catalan town of Tárrega. The
fuel's producer, Stocks del
Vallès, recently opened the
45 - fourth plant in the world and
the third in Europe to produce

biodiesel exclusively from used vegetable
oil. Two other plants in Spain expect to start
producing biodiesel by the end of this
month, and another is under construction. 50

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