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## Agri-Plas Develops Crude Oil from Recycled Plastic

By [Ariel Schwartz](#)



Many companies manufacture synthetic crude oil--the entire [Canadian oil shale industry](#) [1] comes to mind--but Oregon-based [Agri-Plas](#) [2] is the first US company to convert hard-to-recycle agricultural plastics into crude oil.

The company recently delivered its first full, 8,200 gallon tanker of oil to a refinery in Washington. That's 196 barrels of oil derived from greenhouse cover, dirty agricultural film, soda bottles, prepackaged food containers, and other low-value plastics.

Agri-Plas' second full tanker is scheduled for delivery later this month. In April, the company will break ground on a facility that can manufacture enough crude oil to deliver a full tanker every day. If all goes well, the company plans on adding 58 new [green-collar](#) [3] jobs at its Brooks, Oregon headquarters by the end of 2009.

Agri-Plas already acts as one of Oregon's largest [recycling plants](#) [4], processing about 15 percent of the state's waste each year.

Before you point out that the last thing we need is more oil to feed our addiction, consider this: most plastic items either [end up in landfills](#) [5] or are burned. Petroleum is present in everything from food to lip balm, and as long as that's the case, better that we use the synthetic, recycled stuff.

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