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Biodiesel, free range eggs to cut Karara's environmental footprint

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Several newly-developed [sustainable](#) business ventures are set to reduce the environmental footprint of the US\$3 billion Karara iron ore project in Western [Australia](#).

As part of a wider push to boost [environmental practices](#), employees at Karara Mining Limited (KML), which is a joint venture owned by [Gindalbie](#) and [Chinese](#) steelmaker [Anshan Iron and Steel \(Ansteel\)](#), have recently developed a number of [environmentally-friendly initiatives](#), including generating biodiesel from waste vegetable oil and setting up a free-range egg producing business.

Waste vegetable oil from the nearby Karara village was previously transported by KML's facilities management provider, Sodexo, to be [recycled](#) in Perth. Now, a new KML plant will convert waste vegetable into biodiesel, thus reducing both trucking and carbon emissions from transport used in and around the mine.

The plant is currently capable of producing 100 litres of biodiesel per batch, with each batch taking around four days to produce. The biodiesel is then being used to fuel a small fleet of on-site 4WD's and plans are already in place to start collecting waste oil from neighbouring mining camps, local towns and facilities, in an effort to further reduce the overall [environmental impact](#) in the area.

Meanwhile, KML has high hopes of replacing more than a quarter of the eggs currently purchased to feed the Karara workforce after acquiring a custom-designed 'chicken caravan', which is home to 450 free-range chickens that are expected to lay around 360 eggs per day.

The egg production business operates in line with KML's sustainable farming practices and is managed under an arrangement between the Mullewa Employment & Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation (MEEDAC) and Sodexo, and is expected to employ approximately five to 10 part-time personnel.

"It is through good ideas like these, generated by KML employees, that we have implemented innovative technology and sustainable farming practices as a step towards reducing the environmental impact of mine site operations," commented KML's CEO Steve Murdoch.

"As we further develop these initiatives, our aim is to expand them so they reduce not only Karara's environmental footprint, but that of the entire Mid-West region," he added.

Future ideas for projects include establishing an aquaponics system, which will grow fish, marron, fruit and vegetables to sell to Sodexo that will then be consumed in the Karara Village.

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