

Environmental Quality Commission Recognizes Leaders of EcoBiz Program

Association marks 10 years and growing, with DEQ collaboration

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In December, the Environmental Quality Commission and DEQ Northwest Region recognized the EcoLogical (EcoBiz) Business Program and specifically the leadership of Jim Houser with Hawthorne Auto Clinic, and Clean Water Services. Both have played instrumental roles in the success of the EcoBiz program.

The EcoBiz program was first launched in 1998 in the Portland area by the Pollution Prevention Outreach Team, of which Clean Water Services is a founding member, in partnership with the Northwest Auto Trades Association and others. The EcoBiz program certifies businesses in the auto repair and landscape services industries that meet the highest standards of environmental performance to:

- prevent water and air pollution
- reduce the generation of hazardous and solid wastes, and
- reduce water, energy, and material consumption.

Today, the program certifies businesses throughout the state, offering search tools on the **EcoBiz Web site** for consumers to find certified Eco-Logical businesses.

By virtue of being certified, many EcoBiz members like Jim Houser, are also leaders in their industry with respect to sustainability and climate change. Jim's involvement ensures that the latest and greatest of innovative technologies and pollution prevention alternatives are considered and integrated into

forward-thinking but practical approaches that program staff promote. Whether it's installing photovoltaic panels on the roof of his shop or volunteering for an EcoBiz outreach event, Jim is always pushing the bar to a higher level.

At the 10-year anniversary of this program, 2008 marked a special milestone for EcoBiz as the association certified its 100th auto services facility. EcoBiz has certified more than 100 shops (such as Hawthorne Auto Clinic), regional and national franchises, car dealerships, private fleets, and public fleets, including Clean Water Services. The association looks forward to certifying many more shops in the next 10 years.

One of the ways that this will be accomplished highlights the leadership provided by Clean Water Services. Approached earlier this year by DEQ to assist in a massive outreach to automotive refinishing shops to implement the new federal air toxics rules, Clean Water Services staff quickly recognized the opportunity to expand the EcoBiz program in an effort to not only help Oregon's air quality, but also its water quality, which they are charged to protect. They knew that an EcoBiz shop would not only minimize air emissions, but water discharges as well. They then proceeded to commit their own resources to partner with DEQ, the Pollution Prevention Resource Center, and Northwest Auto Trades Association. This partnership will result in dozens more certified shops, a more sustainable industry, better choices for consumers to patronize environmentally responsible shops, and cleaner Oregon communities.