



# Environmental Achievement for *Auto Repair Businesses*

## **What is Denver P2 Partners?**

The Certifiably Green Denver Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Certifiably Green Denver offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business' environmental sustainability needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

## **Why Participate?**

*Compliance* - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

*Cost Savings* - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

*Public Image* - Superior environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

## **Public Recognition!**

Certifiably Green Denver publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

Certifiably Green Denver is a voluntary and non-regulatory program that provides free educational outreach and technical assistance on a variety of environmental issues to businesses in the City and County of Denver. The primary goals of the program are to increase participation and adoption of sustainable practices to minimize use of hazardous materials, improve energy efficiency and water conservation, and decrease the use of resources and generation of waste.

Our Partners are leaders in the business community who are setting the standard for environmental sustainability.

## **Certification Criteria**

Certifiably Green Denver has developed industry-specific criteria that target environmental issues and concerns unique to the auto repair sector.

The criteria are separated into five categories: Business Management, Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, Resource Management, and Transportation. **All** Core Criteria, plus **two** Electives, must be met in each category to achieve the Certifiably Green Denver certification. The elective criteria are intended to provide businesses the flexibility to take advantage of initiatives that are of most interest to them.

In order to maintain certification, businesses must continue to comply with the core criteria and complete at least one new elective criteria from each category every year. Certifiably Green Denver staff will follow-up annually with Partner businesses to ensure that they continue to meet the certification criteria, to encourage further improvement, and to lend assistance in overcoming technical issues and challenges.

## **How Do I Get Started?**

Contact Certifiably Green Denver for more information or to get started. Program staff will visit your business to go over the certification process, benefits, and program criteria.

Call Certifiably Green Denver at 720-865-5457  
Or visit our website at  
[www.denvergov.org/certifiablygreendenver](http://www.denvergov.org/certifiablygreendenver)

## **Business Management**

Sustainability has many definitions, but the basic principles and concepts remain constant: balancing economic and financial need, protecting the environment, and fostering social equity to improve the quality of life for future generations and ourselves. A good first step towards making your business sustainable is getting your employees and customers involved in the process to build a culture of sustainability.

### **Core Criteria-All Required**

- Educate all stakeholders (employees, customers, other businesses) about your shop's environmental practices, the Certifiably Green Denver program and the Certifiably Green Denver certification process.
- Verify your organization is in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations, including, but not limited to the following:
  - Universal Waste Rules
  - Air Emission and CFC Requirements
  - Hazardous Waste Regulations
  - Stormwater Management Requirements
  - Industrial Pretreatment and Wastewater Requirements
  - OSHA Hazard Communication (MSDS's).
- Conduct an annual assessment with Certifiably Green Denver to evaluate your operating practices and to identify opportunities for improving environmental practices.
- Share your environmental successes with other businesses.

### **Elective Criteria-Choose Two**

- Adopt a policy/mission statement that demonstrates your shop's commitment to environmental stewardship, and communicate the policy to all employees.
- Designate a coordinator and/or team to oversee and document your certification and ongoing environmental improvements.
- Recruit one other shop to take part in the certification program.
- Publicize your environmental practices on your website and/or in-store display.
- Participate in a community improvement program or event.
- Provide incentives for your employees to volunteer with environmental and/or other organizations.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

## Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency means using less energy to heat and cool buildings; heat and circulate water; and operate lights, equipment, and machinery without sacrificing productivity or comfort. Energy efficiency can increase profits and improve productivity.

### Core Criteria-All Required

- Replace your furnace filters regularly to improve efficiency.
- Routinely inspect compressed air lines and repair any leaks.
- Educate staff and require that all non-essential lighting, equipment and machines be turned off after business hours.
- Replace all incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) where appropriate.

OR

- Request an energy audit and implement the top 5 recommendations.

### Elective Criteria-Choose Two

- Purchase at least 25% wind power.
- Install an approved used oil heater.
- Use outside air for your compressor intake line.
- Replace or update your compressor with an energy efficient model (rebates available).
- Require any new equipment purchases or rentals to be Energy Star-rated when available.
- Install low-emissivity coatings on windows. Low-e windows help minimize the load on the heating and cooling system while letting in sunlight for day lighting.
- Replace older style T-12 fluorescent tubes with T-8 or super T-8 fluorescent tubes, which use 20-40% less energy (rebates available). T-8 ballasts have a life time of approximately 55,000 hours.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

## Water Conservation and Quality

Although water covers nearly three-quarters of the earth, less than one percent is clean, fresh water. Therefore, it is vital that we both conserve and protect this critical resource. When evaluating potential savings, don't forget to consider costs to heat and treat the water.

### Core Criteria-All Required

- Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - Do not dump any liquids or materials into stormwater drains
  - Do not perform maintenance or repair work outside where pollutants can contaminate stormwater
  - Do not wash vehicles outside, unless the water is captured for proper disposal
  - Any items that are stored outside such as used oil containers, batteries etc. that could adversely affect stormwater should be covered and placed in secondary containment
  - Use only "dry" cleanup methods to manage spills
  - Ensure that employees have read the Vehicle Repair Stormwater Protection resource sheet.
- Stencil storm drains on facility property to increase awareness.
- Ensure that all water hoses have a flow control nozzle.
- Educate employees to reduce water usage at all times (e.g. turning off water while washing hands, dishes).

### Elective Criteria-Choose Two

- Develop a formal, written spill prevention & response plan.
- Maintain a map of property, identifying directions(s) of stormwater flow and locations of storm drain inlets. Certifiably Green Denver can assist.
- Cease washing cars for clients and/or offer tokens for a nearby car wash.
- Insulate hot water pipes, boilers and water heaters.
- Install high-efficiency toilets (rebates available).
- Install 0.5 gpm sensor-controlled sinks in restrooms.
- Install high-efficiency urinals in men's restrooms (rebates available).
- Eliminate single-pass cooling towers and improve efficiency of cooling tower (rebates available).
- Reduce turf areas with low water consuming or drought resistant vegetation
- Water landscape in the evenings, overnight, or early mornings.
- Convert overhead sprinkler irrigation to drip irrigation.
- Install a smart irrigation controller for your irrigation system (rebates available).
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

## Resource Management

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Reducing consumption, reusing existing materials, and recycling as the final step saves resources and money. Purchasing products with recycled content increases the demand for recycling and drives improvements in quality and price. Check for health hazards associated with the products that you use, and look for less toxic alternatives.

### Core Criteria-All Required

- Recycle antifreeze, oil filters, oil, batteries and tires.
- Use non-chlorinated brake and parts cleaner.
- Eliminate or reduce use of chemicals with a flash point of 140 degrees Fahrenheit or less.
- Keep lids on all containers when not in use.
- Replace toxic cleaning products with environmentally preferable and less toxic alternatives.

### Elective Criteria-Choose Two

- Recycle all cardboard, mixed paper and co-mingled containers.
- Use an aqueous parts washer and dispose of waste correctly.
- Use refillable spray cans.
- Donate usable outdated or unsold merchandise and supplies to nonprofit groups, schools, etc.
- Replace a hazardous material used in the facility with a safer or non-hazardous one.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

## Transportation

Sustainable transportation reduces pollution by increasing the quality of public transportation, cycling and walking, uses cleaner fuels and technologies, encourages trip consolidation and planning thus reducing vehicle miles traveled.

### **Core Criteria-All Required**

- Adopt an anti-idling vehicle policy for employees, customers and vendors who conduct business at your shop and for your transportation vehicles; vehicles may not idle for more than 5 minutes in any one hour period.
- When possible fuel shop vehicles early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Inflate all shop and customer tires to recommended pressure.

### **Elective Criteria-Choose Two**

- Encourage your employees to consider alternative transportation methods for getting to and from work such as riding a bike, walking, carpooling, or taking the bus.
- Provide an opportunity for employees to participate in Bike-To-Work Day.
- Provide free or discounted bus passes or Eco-passes to employees.
- Provide customers with transit information such as bus routes when dropping their vehicles off for service.
- Develop green driving tips and proper vehicle preventative maintenance checklists for customers.
- Provide employees with educational training on hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles maintenance.
- Fill your vehicle tires with nitrogen
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS

### Management

- Universal Waste Compliance Bulletin – Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment ([www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/UWRgeneral.pdf](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/UWRgeneral.pdf))

### Energy Efficiency

- Energy Star for Retail businesses ([www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=retail.bus\\_retail](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=retail.bus_retail))
- Colorado Energy Efficiency Guide ([www.coloradoefficiencyguide.com](http://www.coloradoefficiencyguide.com))
- Compressed Air Efficiency and Workshops  
[www.xcelenergy.com/Business/Programs\\_Resources/](http://www.xcelenergy.com/Business/Programs_Resources/)
- RTD Eco Pass, Bike-to-Work Day and City and County of Denver Bike map Info ([www.denvergov.org/BikeMapsofDenver/tabid/378718/Default.aspx](http://www.denvergov.org/BikeMapsofDenver/tabid/378718/Default.aspx))
- Carbon Offsets
  - [www.climatetrust.org](http://www.climatetrust.org)
  - [www.carbonfund.org](http://www.carbonfund.org)
  - [www.uship.com/terrapass](http://www.uship.com/terrapass)
- \*\*Certifiably Green Denver Resource Sheets \*
  - LED Exit Signs

### Water Conservation and Quality

- Denver Water Conservation Program and rebate info ([www.conservation@denverwater.org](http://www.conservation@denverwater.org))
- Xeriscape Colorado ([www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org))
- American Water Works Association ([www.waterwiser.org](http://www.waterwiser.org))
- Stormwater protection and illicit discharge information ([www.keepitcleanddenver.org](http://www.keepitcleanddenver.org))
- \*\*Certifiably Green Denver Resource Sheets
  - Vehicle Repair Stormwater Protection

### Resource Management

All references to products, process, and services above by phone, name, trademark, or manufacturer are for informational purposes only and do not represent an endorsement of any particular product or entity by the Certifiably Green Denver Program. If you know a firm who would like to be added to this list, please have them contact Certifiably Green Denver at 720-865-5457.

- Eco-Cycle Hard-to-Recycle Guide ([www.ecocycle.org/htrg](http://www.ecocycle.org/htrg))
- Center for Hard-to-Recycle Material (CHaRM) ([www.ecocycle.org/charm/index.cfm](http://www.ecocycle.org/charm/index.cfm))
- EPA Waste Wise Program resources ([www.epa.gov/wastewise](http://www.epa.gov/wastewise))
- Packaging Waste Reduction: ([www.ciwmb.ca.gov/packaging/retail](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/packaging/retail))
- Guaranteed Recycling Xperts (GRX): ([www.grxrecycles.com](http://www.grxrecycles.com))
- Rocky Mountain Recycling, LLC: ([www.rockymountainrecycling.com](http://www.rockymountainrecycling.com))
- \*\*Certifiably Green Denver Resource Sheets
  - Vehicle Maintenance Vendor List
  - Refillable Spray Bottles
  - Managing Used Oil Filters
  - Hard-to-Recycle Materials
  - Fluorescent Tube and Ballast Recycling
- Greener Denver Business Program ([www.GreenerDenverBiz.org](http://www.GreenerDenverBiz.org))

### Transportation

- ([www.rtd-denver.com](http://www.rtd-denver.com))

**\*\*Certifiably Green Denver resource sheets can be found online at [www.denvergov.org/certifiablygreenddenver](http://www.denvergov.org/certifiablygreenddenver)**