

Auto Repair Shops Certified as Green Businesses- April 2009



A Long Hill Township auto repair shop (Long Hill Auto) and the AAA Car Care Center in Springfield were among the first service centers in New Jersey certified as green business in a new program launched by leaders in the state's automotive industry. As of today there are only 7 certified Auto repair facilities in the state of New Jersey.

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, a member of the consumer affairs committee, was invited to speak as the program was unveiled during Earth Week. He congratulated the repair shops for their environmentally-friendly operations. 'On behalf of the state Legislature, I want to thank all of you for what you've done to make New Jersey a cleaner place,'

Assemblyman Bramnick said.

The two shops are located in District 21, represented by the assemblyman. Five other facilities were also certified for having passed the program's rigorous 88-point checklist.

The New Jersey Green Automotive Repair Program was created through a partnership among AAA New Jersey, the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers (NJCAR) and the New Jersey Gasoline C-Store Automotive Association (NJGCA).

'Recognizing the impact the automotive industry has on the environment, AAA brought New Jersey's automotive leaders together to develop the New Jersey Green Automotive repair Program,' said Frederick L. Gruel, president and CEO of AAA New Jersey.

The industry leaders also worked in collaboration with the state Department of Environmental Protection. But the inspectors determining whether a shop meets the standards for certification are from the private sector.

Assemblyman Bramnick said it's smart to have the private sector make the certification. 'That's what we strive for in government, to have government get out of the way. Government should only regulate when the private sector fails,' the lawmaker said.

The new certifications will be displayed in the shop windows so customers know the business passed a comprehensive checklist that examined everything from type of solvents used in the shop to the way batteries are recycled to how the floor drains are sealed.

Robert Arlotta, long time resident of Montville, owner of the Long Hill Service Center, said his shops are always been environmentally sensitive, especially with recycling. 'This is taking it to the next step to be certified,' he said.

'Good environmental policy translates into good business practices,' said Sal Risalvato, executive director of the NJGCA. 'When a repair shop conserves water and energy, they save money and contribute to the overall good of the environment.'

For more information on the green repair program go to www.njgreenautorepair.com