



**CERTIFIABLY
GREEN
DENVER**

Certifiably Green Denver is a program managed by the Denver Department of Environmental Health to provide education and recognition to businesses for exemplary environmental achievement.



DENVER
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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 positively affect your image with customers, the community and employees.

Public Recognition – CGD 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 a window decal from CGD.

CGD 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.

Environmental Achievement for Auto Repair Businesses

Certiably Green Denver (CGD) 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

CGD has developed industry-specific criteria that target environmental issues and concerns specific 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 certification. The elective criteria are intended to provide businesses the flexibility to take advantage of initiatives that are of most interest and benefit to them.

In order to maintain certification, businesses must continue to comply with the core criteria and complete at least two new elective criteria every year. CGD staff will follow-up annually with certified 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 CGD for more information or to get started. Program staff will visit your business to go over the certification process, benefits, and program criteria. CGD would be pleased to help your business achieve full certification, or complete any of the individual components of the environmental achievement.

Call CGD at 720-865-5457 or visit our website at www.Denvergov.org/CGD

Business Management

Sustainability has many definitions, but the basic principles and concepts remain constant: balancing economic and financial need, protecting public health and 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 – Complete All

- Educate all stakeholders (employees, customers, other businesses) about your shop's environmental practices and the CGD program and certification process.
- Verify your organization is in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations, including, but not limited to the following:
 - ___ Universal Waste Rules (used oil, antifreeze, mercury containing light fixtures)**
 - ___ Waste Tire Regulations**
 - ___ Denver Noise Ordinance
 - ___ Air Emission and CFC Requirements
 - ___ Hazardous Waste Regulations
 - ___ Stormwater Management Requirements**
 - ___ Industrial Pretreatment and Wastewater Requirements
 - ___ OSHA Hazard Communication - Safety Data Sheets (SDSs).
- Encourage other businesses to participate in the program or adopt sustainable practices. Provide referral information for at least one other business.
- Post the CGD certification decal and/or logo in a prominent location on your storefront, lobby and/or company website or window, etc.
- Provide business energy, water and waste usage metrics on an annual basis.
- Conduct an annual assessment with CGD to evaluate your operating practices and to identify opportunities for improving environmental practices.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Adopt a policy/mission statement that demonstrates your business's commitment to environmental stewardship and communicate the policy to all employees.
- Organize a "Green Team" to oversee and document your certification and ongoing environmental practices.
- Publicize your environmental practices on your website and/or in-house 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 CGD 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 – Complete All

- Establish and implement a regularly scheduled preventative maintenance plan for HVAC equipment, including regular filter replacement.
- Regularly inspect compressed air lines and repair any leaks.
- Insulate boilers and hot water pipes.
- Educate staff and require that all non-essential lighting, equipment and machines be turned off after business hours. Require any new equipment purchases or rentals to be ENERGY STAR-rated when available.
- Sign-up for on-line account access with Xcel Energy to track your energy usage at oam.xcelenergy.gridpoint.com/
- Replace all incandescent lighting with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or LEDs.
- Replace older style T-12 fluorescent tubes with T-8 fluorescent or LED tubes.
- Install programmable thermostats and set a program appropriate for your space heating and cooling needs.
- Replace all Exit signs with LED or electroluminescent alternatives.
- Educate all staff to minimize compressed air usage. Set air pressure at lowest possible level, and avoid using for cleaning equipment or floors where dry cleanup is appropriate.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Utilize renewable energy sources for at least 10% of energy consumption (either purchased or installed on-site).
- Use outside air for your compressor intake line.
- Replace or update your compressor with an energy efficient model (rebates available).
- Install occupancy sensors in low-traffic areas.
- Shade sun-exposed windows and walls during the warm season; use blinds, awnings, low-emissivity coatings, or shade trees.
- Require any new equipment purchases to be Energy Star-rated when available.
- Replace standard motors with variable frequency drives (VFD) on boilers, HVAC, compressors, and/or pumps.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with CGD 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 – Complete All

- Comply with the following Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs):
 - ___ Do not dump any liquids or materials into the street/alley/gutter/stormwater drains.
 - ___ Do perform maintenance or repair work outside where pollutants can contaminate stormwater.
 - ___ Do not wash vehicles outside, unless water is captured for proper disposal.
 - ___ Any items that are stored outside such as used oil containers, batteries etc. that could adversely impact stormwater should be covered, leak proof and in water tight containers.
 - ___ Use only “dry” cleanup methods to manage spills.
 - ___ Ensure that employees have read Certifiably Green Denver ‘Vehicle Repair Stormwater Protection’ resource sheet.
- Stencil storm drains on facility property to increase awareness.
- Clean outdoor areas with a broom and damp mop instead of a hose. This includes parking lots, sidewalks, and alleys. Never hose off outdoor hardscapes or use detergents unless collected and properly disposed** (required by state and local regulations).
- Regularly check for plumbing leaks and repair immediately upon detection.
- Educate employees to reduce water usage at all times (e.g. turning off water while washing hands), using signage or email reminders (CGD can provide signage).
- Install low flow aerators or control valves in faucets.
- Install toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) or less.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Maintain a map of your property, identifying directions(s) of stormwater flow and locations of storm drain inlets. Certifiably Green Denver can assist.
- Develop a formal written spill prevention and response plan.
- Install 0.5 gallon per minute (gpm) sensor-controlled sinks in restrooms.
- Cease washing cars for clients and/or offer tokens for a nearby car wash.
- Install high-efficiency or waterless urinals in men's restrooms (rebates available). Install drip irrigation for all trees and planting beds.
- Reduce turf areas with low water consuming, or drought resistant vegetation.
- Water landscape in the evenings, overnight, or early mornings.
- Retrofit toilets with 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf) or less (rebates available).
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with CGD 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 – Complete All

- Recycle all antifreeze, used oil filters, batteries and tires.
- Use non-chlorinated brake and parts cleaner.
- Eliminate or reduce chemicals with a flash point of 140 degrees Fahrenheit or less.
- Replace toxic cleaning products with environmentally preferable and less toxic alternatives.
- Purchase 100% recycled content paper products with at least 30% post consumer content.
- Recycle all cardboard, steel, mixed paper, aluminum, glass, plastic and co-mingled containers.
- Send used toner cartridges back to the manufacturer or local service provider for recycling or refilling.
- Set printer and copier defaults to double sided.
- Work with vendors to minimize and/or take back non-recyclable product packaging where possible.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Implement a composting program.
- Use an aqueous parts washer and dispose of waste correctly.
- Use refillable spray cans
- Donate usable outdated equipment and supplies to nonprofit groups, schools, etc.
- Implement a comprehensive, written environmentally preferred purchasing program
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with CGD 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 – Complete All

- Adopt an anti-idling vehicle policy for employees, customers and vendors who conduct business at your establishment and for your transportation vehicles; vehicles may not idle for more than 5 minutes in any one hour period (with limited exceptions based on temperature conditions).
- Fuel vehicles early in the morning, or late in the evening whenever possible. Link trips to accomplish all errands for your facility in one outing.
- Inflate all shop and customer tires to recommended pressure.
- Promote alternative transportation methods for getting to and from work to your employees. Alternative methods could include riding a bike, walking, carpooling, or taking the bus.
- Provide information on carpooling, van pooling bicycling, walking and public mass transportation to staff and customers.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Install bike racks for customers and employees in a secure location.
- Provide the opportunity and incentives for employees to participate in Bike-To-Work Day.
- Provide free or discounted bus passes or Eco-passes to employees.
- Develop “green driving tips” and proper vehicle preventative maintenance checklists for customers.
- Provide an incentive to customers who use RTD or bike (small discount or coupon on next visit).
- Offer to fill customer tires with nitrogen.
- Provide staff with ongoing education and training on hybrid and alternative fuel vehicle maintenance.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with CGD staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

Additional Resources

Business Management

- Universal Waste Compliance Bulletin – Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/hm-guidance-generators-compliance-aids>)

Energy Efficiency

- EnergyStar for Small Business (<http://www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/small-biz>)
- Xcel Energy Business Solutions (http://www.xcelenergy.com/Energy_Solutions/Business_Solutions)
- Carbon Offsets
 - www.climatetrust.org
 - www.carbonfund.org
 - www.uship.com/terrapass
- **CGD Resource Sheets

Water Conservation and Quality

- Denver Water Conservation Program and rebate info (www.denverwater.org/conservation)
- Xeriscape Colorado (www.xeriscape.org)
- WaterSense (<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>)
- Stormwater protection and illicit discharge information (www.keepitcleanddenver.org)
- **CGD Resource Sheets

Resource Management

- Eco-Cycle Hard-to-Recycle Guide (www.ecocycle.org/htrg)
- Center for Hard-to-Recycle Material (CHaRM) (www.ecocycle.org/charm)
- Repurposed MATERIALS (www.repurposedmaterialinc.com)
- EPA WasteWise Program resources (www.epa.gov/wastewise)
- Packaging Waste Reduction: (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/packaging/retail)
- Metech Recycling: (www.metech.com)
- Rocky Mountain Recycling, LLC: (www.rockymountainrecycling.com)
- **CGD Resource Sheets

Transportation

- Way to Go (www.waytogo.org)
- Regional Transportation District (www.rtd-denver.com)
- Denver BCycle (www.denver.bcycle.com)
- Bike Denver (www.BikeDenver.org)

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 CGD Program. If you know a firm who would like to be added to this list, please have them contact CGD at 720-865-5457.

****CGD resource sheets can be found online at: www.Denvergov.org/CGD**