

The Import Garage

The Pollution Prevention Outreach Team (P2O) certified The Import Garage as an **Eco-Logical Business** auto shop. Bill Eastman, owner of The Import Garage, is a certified mechanic whose shop specializes in Japanese, European and British cars since 1977.

Eastman lives by being aware of how we generate waste and handle it and moving to recycle or reuse instead of disposal. His father lived this philosophy both as a family man and his jobs; first as a Chemist then an Environmental Control Specialist for Kaiser Aluminum. In 1959 his father and young Eastman planted gladioli in the yard across from the aluminum plant. Five years later they dug up the bulbs, dissected them and analyzed the results. Results showed them that the aluminum plant that put food on the table was also poisoning the Ohio River and land around it. Bill says that the Ohio river, which was once a cesspool, is now almost clean enough to drink and his father's actions had a direct influence on cleaning up the river. One man can make a difference.

Just as his dad got involved, so is Bill involved in a total immersion into an environmentally correct way of living his life and business sense. Good solid waste management to recycle, cut waste, purchase remanufactured parts especially from responsible environmentally correct countries and eliminating materials to the landfill now flourish through The Import Garage. Cardboard, used parts paper boxes, scrap paper and metals are recycled. Used metal parts are sent for re-manufacturer of auto parts. Anti-freeze is recycled on-site.

With a Bachelors Degree in Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration, Eastman continually finds way to save money and help the environment.

left to right Bob Hartley, Dave Klug, Bill Eastman owner, Rob Schwab, Mike Gano. Joe Cantrell



He is a member of the financial board of directors of the PATA, (Pacific Auto Trades Association) and OATA (Oregon Automotive Trades Association) board member.

He feels it is a real challenge for his employees to keep up with a changing automotive environment. He has made a conscience choice to offer continuing education and good benefits to his six employees. He feels it is a constant challenge to find good mechanics since automotive shop isn't taught any longer in the local high schools. There are no apprenticeship programs offered in the State of Oregon

Eastman thinks it is worthwhile for any automotive shop to get involved in the Eco-Logical Business Program as it makes good economic sense to become environmentally aware. He feels one must recognize there is a potential problem and then do something about it to solve the problem.

He said that being pro-active in a responsible environmental manner also puts him in contact with others who can help with his business. He is not all business; when asked what he dreams, it is just as quick "Honduras!"



THE ECO-LOGICAL BUSINESS PROGRAM

The Eco-Logical Business/Automotive Services Program is a joint project of the Automotive Service Association, the Pacific Automotive Trades Association, AAA of Oregon/Idaho and the Pollution Prevention Outreach Team (Portland, Gresham, Clackamas and Washington counties, United Sewerage Agency, Metro and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality).

BENEFITS TO CUSTOMERS AND THE COMMUNITY

- Certified Eco-Logical Business exceeds local environmental requirements and insures that Best Management Practices are followed.
- Certification assures customers that the business has taken the necessary steps to reduce water and air pollution, hazardous and solid waste.
- Certification of Excellence Award for responsible environmental management notifies the community that shops care about the environment.

BECOME OR USE A CERTIFIED ECO-LOGICAL BUSINESS Automotive Shops

For an Eco-Logical Business "Keep Your Shop In Tune" manual or to schedule a certification visit to learn about ways to reduce pollution and cut costs, call 823-5320.

Auto Shop Customers

For a list of certified Eco-Logical Program auto shops, call Metro Recycling Services, 234-3000. Or www.ecobiz.org

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