



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

British American Auto Care, Inc.



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www.britishamericanauto.co
Member since July 2009

Management and Leadership



Annual Goals

We follow SCORE (Sustainability Competency & Opportunity Rating and Evaluation) once a year and set goals to complete during the year. We also recently commissioned a sustainability plan that will guide us through the next 12 months, 2-3 years and 4-5 years. See <http://www.zerowaste.org/score/about.htm>

We actively promote our green policies and environmentally friendly procedures to staff and customers, and solicit new “green” ideas. By doing this we not only promote environmental awareness but have also received many great ideas that we have been able to implement.



Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

*On June 28, 2008, we hosted a “green” open house for our customers and the community. We had various green vendors from home energy audits, Amsoil (extended life oil), Howard County recycling and more.
We sponsor a Howard County Adopt-a-Road.*

We have set up a free drop off point for customers to leave their old household batteries. During the past year we recycled (at our cost) over 300 pounds of customer household batteries.

We launched our own campaign (TV PSA, Internet and Newsletter) that correctly advises the public about oil change frequency and encourages the public to only change their oil when it is needed, based on type of car, engine, oil and

personal driving use. Not every 3,000 miles as is so often incorrectly promoted by the oil companies and quickie-lube shops.

Waste



Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse

We purchase oil in bulk, saving more than 1,900 plastic oil bottles a year! We have also implemented waste management suggestions given to us in a report that was provided by the University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program.

By reducing our trash by over 50% we have arranged for biweekly trash pick-up rather than weekly!



Recycling

We implemented our own plan to drain all oil from plastic bottles allowing them to be recycled rather than going to the landfill. To achieve this we obtained special permission from MDE's Waste Management Administration which reviewed and approved our system.

We drain the bottles for 72 hrs. This saves more than 400 lbs of plastic a year, and prevents 150 quarts of oil a year from going in the land fill while saving us more than \$600 a year.



Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

We switched as many chemicals as possible to environmentally friendly. Instead of using Spray Nine, we now use Simple Green. All of our cleaning products are environmentally friendly.

Energy



Energy Efficiency

By working with an energy consultant, we were able to cut our energy use in half. In one of our projects, we improved our warehouse lighting by



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installing solar tubes and a smart lighting system that adjusts wattage depending on daylight level and motion detection.

Other



We have converted 50% of the landscape back to being nature by NOT mowing and planting native plants. Also a long-time customer volunteered and converted the open space around our building into a wildlife friendly environment. Creating a small, peaceful, native woodland/meadow setting in the midst of what is otherwise an industrial complex. Clients who choose to wait can enjoy relaxing in this native 'retreat'. We also have individual garden plots tended by our staff – growing vegetables and flowers. A cold compost area has been added and a selection of native perennials, shrubs and trees has been planted.

We also used a blog to promote a Green auto club, Watershed issues, Howard County GreenFest and the Middle Patuxent Environment Area. We have become a leader in our industry and the community through implementing innovative systems that are smart for the environment and business too. In 2010, we were awarded the Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award.

We could not have done this without experts from UMD and an environment engineer and the help of a Master Gardener.



View our video

Profile Updated April 2011



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