



NEWS

National Steering Committee, SBO/SBEAP

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF 2011 TRADE ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION AWARD

June 2, 2011 – The National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Small Business Ombudsman/Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBO/SBEAPs) recognized four award winners during its 8th Annual Small Business Recognition Awards Ceremony Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The ceremony was held during the 2011 SBO/SBEAP State Partner Training at The Sheraton Raleigh Hotel in Raleigh, NC.

The New Jersey Green Automotive Repair Program (NJGARP) was recognized with the *Trade Association Environmental Leadership Award*, which recognizes exemplary performance and leadership by a trade association. Alex Yankaskas, President, accepted the award on behalf of the association.

The NJGARP is a collaborative effort by the NJ Coalition of Automotive Retailers, NJ Gasoline and Convenience Store Association, NJ Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, NJ Mechanics Association, independent auto repair shop owners, and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, which includes the NJ Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. On Earth Day 2009, the NJGARP launched the Green Auto Repair Program, with a mission to encourage and recognize auto repair facilities that have gone beyond regulatory requirements by implementing pollution prevention and resource conservation practices.

Benefits of the program include:

- Improved air, soil, and water quality
- Reduced materials in waste stream
- Reduced costs of operating facilities
- Marketing opportunities for certified facilities
- Education of facility owners and consumers on the benefits of going green.

For more information about the National Small Business Awards Recognition Program as well as the services offered on the local and national levels by the Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs, visit the Small Business Environmental Home Page at www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org. The web page is maintained by Audrey Graylin Zelanko, Vision Technologies, Inc. and AGZ & Associates, LLC supported by funding from the US EPA ASBO, Office of Small Business Programs.