

# Yuma Area Office Equipment Shop Earns Green Shop Certification

By Janice Hellen

The Yuma Area Office Heavy Equipment Shop is looking greener and greener these days. After the Environmental Compliance Group completed a detailed twenty page application and receiving an on-site inspection, the YAO Equipment Shop is now certified with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arizona Green Business Program as a “Green Shop”.

The Arizona Green Business (Automotive) Program is a unique partnership between ADEQ, AAA Arizona and the Automotive Service Association of Arizona (ASA). This is a voluntary program in which automotive repair facilities demonstrate their pollution prevention capabilities and sustainable practices which go above and beyond the regulations which all repair facilities must meet.

A green shop certification shows that a facility takes extra measures to protect the environment, save resources, and keep workers safer and healthier.

A few of the areas that were examined included:

- Parts cleaning (equipment, products and processes)
- Battery management
- Oil and filter life extension and recycling
- Housekeeping practices and spill prevention
- Energy and water conservation
- Solid waste reduction and recycling

In order to achieve certification, the Shop had to be in compliance with all applicable regulations, implement enough pollution prevention measures contained in the Green Shop checklist to accumulate 300 points, and pledge continued compliance with regulations.

Green Shop inspector, Andy Menard, worked his way through the Shop and the scorecard checklist, coming up with a final score of 345. He was generally pleased with the Shop and processes, and offered some helpful suggestions to “green” processes even more.

Special thanks to Jim Tate and all the guys at the Shop who work so hard to keep a clean/green shop. And, extra special thanks to Jesus Valadez who provided his valuable time and expertise in answering hundreds of questions which helped complete the arduous application process. For more information about sustainable practices and the Yuma Area Office’s Sustainability and Environmental Management System efforts similar to the Green Shop, please contact Jill Dale 928-343-8127 or Janice Hellen 928-343-8338.



Andy Menard, ASA Green Shop inspector (left), and Jim Tate, Equipment Support Group Manager, discuss aspects of the YAO Equipment Shop



From Left to right Florencio Naverrete, Jesus Valadez, Dan Orman, Sheldon Bedoya, Jill Dale, and Jim Tate, Mike Bieber in the back. Janice Hellen not photographed. Photograph taken by Roselynn Smith.



From left to right Florencio Naverrete, Jesus Valadez, Dan Orman, Sheldon Bedoya and Jim Tate.