

REAL RESULTS



It's Easy Being Green

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS ARE GAINING MORE ATTENTION THESE DAYS, BUT THEY'RE NOTHING NEW AT **LARRY'S AUTOWORKS**

BY **KATHY SENA** | PHOTOS BY **JOSEPH PUHY**

KEEPING THE WORK — and world — environment safe and healthy is important to Larry Moore of Larry's AutoWorks in Mountain View, Calif.

In fact, the Total Service Support (TSS) owner has been honored many times for his environmental efforts, including receiving the California Model Shop Award from the California EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control, for his role in reducing pollution in the automotive repair industry.

The shop is one of only nine ISCs in the state to receive the award. So it's surprising to some to learn that an environmental champion like Moore became involved in green initiatives by accident.

FROM FIXING BUGS TO SAVING THE EARTH

Moore was working toward a marketing degree when he became a fixture at Mel's Bug Shop in Mountain View more than 35 years ago.

"The owner hired me to work nights at the shop rebuilding engines after seeing how good I was with my Volkswagen Bug," says Moore, who bought the shop in 1972, renaming it Larry's Bug Shop. He's since changed the name and twice moved to larger quarters before settling into his current 13,500-sq.-ft. Mountain View location.

"I was frustrated with the confusing array of environmental and other regulatory requirements when I started out as a new shop owner back in the early '70s," Moore says. "Different agencies had different requirements for auto shops, and they often contradicted each other."

Looking to improve the situation, Moore invited local reps from each regulatory agency to speak with ISC owners and compare notes. He also began writing environmentally sound shop management practices. Moore eventually became so involved with the process that in 1999, then-Gov. Gray Davis appointed him to the Source Reduction Advisory Committee for the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

LARRY'S AUTOWORKS
WHERE: MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.
SIZE: 13,500 SQ. FT. | 15 EMPLOYEES
WHEN: OPENED IN 1972



MOORE'S NEW PARTS-WASHING MACHINE IS BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIS WORKERS — AND IS SAVING HIM MONEY ON SOLVENTS.

"Our green efforts started with simple things like recycling paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass," says Moore, who is also a past president of the Automotive Service Councils of California. The shop has since moved on to handling used oil in accordance with hazardous-waste regulations and reducing chemical solvent, among other things.

"We used to hand-clean parts with solvent," Moore says. "Not only was it bad for the environment, but it damaged people's hands." Today, the shop uses a parts-washing machine that cleans them with soap and high-temperature water. "The machine paid for itself in just 45 days and continues to save us a large sum of money," Moore adds.

He suggests organizing monthly meetings with other local ISC owners to compare notes and share tips on what's working and what's not regarding all aspects of running a shop — from business issues to environmental concerns to technician training opportunities.