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News Release

Auto Parts Salvage Yard Wins 2008 Emerald Award

- Only "Green" Salvage Yard in South Florida -

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Gardner Foreign Auto Parts logo

Most people do not understand just how important auto salvage yards are to our daily lives. After all, they are just junk yards, right? But consider what our world would look like without them. What would our streets look like if businesses like Gardner Foreign Auto Yard, Pompano Beach, did not recycle the more than 11 million retired vehicles each year?

That's why they've been chosen to receive Broward County's 2008 Emerald Award for outstanding environmental practices.

Each year, the Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department recognizes several local businesses for their outstanding environmentally-responsible business practices. Each business receives an Emerald Award for their exceptional efforts in protecting the environment.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners will present trophies to all of the winners at a special ceremony followed by a brief reception at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the Broward County Commission Chambers, Room 422, of the Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

Gardner Foreign Auto Parts is an automotive salvage yard that specializes in the recycling and sales of auto parts. When done properly, auto recycling helps preserve natural resources. Gardner Foreign Auto Parts is a leader in the industry and is one of the only area salvage yards recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a "Green Yard."

Gardner Auto Parts won in the "Recycling-Small Business" Category. Factors that qualified the company include:

- Recycles:
 - 416,000 pounds of steel (crushed flat bodies)
 - 129 used batteries
 - 114 gallons of Antifreeze
 - 725 gallons of used oils (motor, transmission, rear end and brake fluid)
 - 60 gallons of parts cleaner/solvents
 - 56 pounds of Freon
 - 440 pounds of catalytic converters
 - 600 waste tires
 - 1800 pounds of aluminum

- 400 pounds of copper
- 3000 pounds of newspapers, magazines, office paper, bottles and cans
- Recycles alloy wheels, air conditioning condensers, radiators, turbo coolers, bumpers and aluminum molding
- Member of the National Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) and is the only ARA certified auto recycler south of Orlando
- Only "Green Yard " in Broward County, and only one south of Orlando that is certified by Florida DEP
- Use a Gas Recycling "gas buggy" to extract gasoline from wrecked cars for reuse in company delivery trucks
- Accept used oil and batteries from the general public to prevent them from entering the waste stream.

Altogether seven businesses will be given Emerald Awards and several individuals and one municipality/government agency will receive the 2008 NatureScape Emerald Awards for incorporating NatureScape Broward techniques into their landscaping. The program recognizes businesses for their voluntary efforts in four areas: waste reduction, recycling, improved operating practices, and other "green" strategies that reduce pollution and waste. Both large and small businesses are eligible. One business is also honored with the title "Environmental Business of the Year," which will be announced at the ceremony.

Receiving an Emerald Award can help companies boost business. Research has shown that a company's environmental reputation will rival quality and brand name as criteria used by customers. Environmentally-friendly business practices can help companies attract new customers, encourage repeat customers and boost employee morale.

More information, including application procedures and guidelines, is available online at www.broward.org/environment, or call 954-519-1257. For more information on Broward County's Green initiatives, programs and services please visit www.broward.org/gogreen. For more information on Gardner Auto Parts, located at 2090 N.W. 21st St. in Pompano Beach, call 954-972-9407 or visit their website at www.gardnerautoparts.com.

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