



**GreenTip**  
How Do You Measure Up?

## How Green Is Your Mechanic?

Our personal vehicles are so ingrained in our everyday lives that we often take them for granted. Have you thought about the potential for **environmental impact** as a result of your car repairs and maintenance? Whether you're your own mechanic, you have a neighborhood shade tree mechanic or you take your vehicle to a dealership or auto service center, there are some **environmental issues** you should be aware of.

### State Laws Affect You

Currently, North Carolina bans **antifreeze** and **used motor oil** from being disposed of in landfills. In addition, **used motor vehicle oil filters** will be banned as of **October 1st** of this year (2009). That means that none of those materials can be put into your regular trash. Auto repair shops and car dealerships have contractors that handle disposal of these regulated items. If you do your own automotive maintenance and repairs, you have several disposal options available to you. As a resident of Guilford County, you may take all of these materials to the **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center** ([click here](#) for more information about location and hours of operation) at no charge. If that's not convenient, many auto part stores and repair shops will take these items for you. Contact your parts or repair shop to find out about **disposal services** they may provide and any fees that might be charged. If you work with a friend or neighbor, be certain that he or she properly disposes of the fluids and oil filters that are removed from your vehicle. If disposal is a problem for your shade tree mechanic, perhaps offering to take the materials for proper disposal might net you a discount.

North Carolina also bans **tires** from being disposed of in landfills. The best way to dispose of your worn out tires is to let your tire retailers keep them and dispose of them for you. If you have tires to dispose of, contact the Guilford County Scrap Tire and White Goods Collection Center at (336) 294-9431 for specifics about disposal costs, location and hours of operation, or [click here](#) for information.

## **General Pointers**

Keeping your car properly inspected and maintained can have a big effect on your fuel usage. Try these tips:

- Check your tire pressure often – maintaining the correct tire pressure helps with **fuel economy**;
- Clean or replace air and fuel filters regularly to make your vehicle run **more efficiently**;
- Avoid quick starts and rapid acceleration;
- Keep up with the routine maintenance of your vehicle to **maximize engine performance**;
- *Look for opportunities to combine trips and reduce vehicle usage.*

**Remember, you can make a difference!**