



CLEAN AIR & CLEAN ENERGY
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OAQDA Closes on Financing for Clean Air Facility at Central Ohio Auto Body Shop
Long-time Lancaster business improves operations for better air quality for employees, customers, community

Columbus –One of Central Ohio’s oldest independent auto body shops received approval for financing of equipment to promote air quality through the Clean Air Resource Center (CARC) by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its December meeting.

Kumler Collision, an automotive paint and body repair shop established in 1928 in Lancaster, OH, will receive up to \$275,000 to replace its 25 year old paint booths, with two new state of the art Garmat Frontier downdraft paint booths. The new booths will increase capacity by enabling the paint teams to spray repaired vehicles and dismantled parts together in one cycle through the use of a larger cabin size in the new equipment. Kumler currently must split many jobs into two cycles due to lack of space in the existing booths.

In addition to larger capacity, the new booths have many technology upgrades that improve energy consumption and filtered air quality. The existing natural gas fired burners for each booth will be replaced with more energy efficient burners for a decrease of more than one million BTUs in energy consumption.

Kumler recently made several changes to its equipment and procedures that support a cleaner environment, including changing to water-based color coat paints, which dramatically improves the air quality for technicians as well as the environment. Kumler’s paint teams use high efficiency paint guns to reduce overspray, and any overspray is captured in the advanced filtering process of the paint booths. The new paint booths will sit over traditional pits for optimized air flow around vehicles during paint spraying cycles and for high performance during baking cycles, increasing efficiency.

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“This financing through OAQDA is important because it will allow us to improve our work flow, add capacity for additional business, and ultimately enhance the quality of our finished product for our customers, which is very important to us,” Jeff Slagell, paint area manager at Kumler Collision, said.

He added that the company anticipates the increased volume of paint body work will allow them to hire additional employees in the near future. The permitting and equipment installation process should be complete in the first quarter of 2016, Slagell said.

“The Kumler Collision project is an excellent example of the type of assistance OAQDA and the State of Ohio provide to small businesses through OAQDA’s CARC program, which provides assistance for meeting pollution requirements. CARC funds are available to finance the purchase of pollution control or prevention equipment as well as make grants to cover the upfront costs of financing pollution control investments. This project enables OAQDA to further its mission of fostering and preserving clean air in Ohio,” said Chadwick Smith, OAQDA executive director.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at www.ohioairquality.org.