



CLEAN AIR & CLEAN ENERGY
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OAQDA Approves Financing for Clean Air Facility at Medina County Auto Body Shop
*Brunswick business improves operations for better air quality
for employees, customers, community*

Columbus – A Medina County auto body shop 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 a recent OAQDA meeting.

Schade's Auto Body, a family-owned automotive paint and body repair shop established in 1993 in Brunswick, OH, will receive up to \$280,000 to replace existing paint booths with a new state of the art Blowthrem downdraft paint booth.

The new booth will increase capacity and efficiency over the current system and will enable Schade's to utilize two paint prep stations, three paint cabins and a paint mixing room. With the increased capacity, the body shop will be able to increase the number of paint jobs they are able to perform and potentially increase the number of people they employ in the shop.

According to Sarah Eisenman, general manager of Schade's, the increased capacity results in improved energy efficiency.

"The natural gas burners for the paint booth will utilize direct-fired burners with frequency drive for more efficiency. These burners will result in less heat loss and faster response to the desired temperature resulting in a shorter operating cycle and a more stable temperature," Eisenman said.

She added that even though natural gas usage will increase, the burners will utilize the natural more efficiently.

Schade's recently converted to water-based color paints. The new paint booth will optimize the quality of these paints, and enhanced filtration will greatly improve the air quality for technicians, as well as for the environment. The company's paint teams use high efficiency HVLP paint guns to reduce overspray. Any overspray is captured in the advanced filtering process of the paint booth.

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“Schade’s has been family owned and operated for 23 years. Part of our family business philosophy is to support our local community and create a healthy work environment while being environmentally friendly. With the support from OAQDA, we are able to provide our employees with state of the art equipment that will improve their overall quality of health including dustless sanders and a filtration system that will capture additional pollutants. The new filtration system, water based paint products, in addition with other equipment will also support reducing our carbon footprint. While minimizing our environmental impacts, we will be improving our productivity by 20 percent leading to additional employees. OAQDA has provided us with a foundation that will significantly impact our business long-term,” Joe Schade, owner and president of Schade’s Auto Body, said.

“This project exemplifies the type of support the State of Ohio offers 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. In addition, CARC makes grants to cover the upfront costs of financing pollution control investments. Projects like this one with Schade’s Auto Body enable 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.