



**GREEN
WRENCH**
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

TOOLBOX

JULY 2021

AIR QUALITY, POLLUTION, AND PERMITS



Auto painter wears proper protection in paint booth to protect from inhaling VOCs. (Photo from Getty Images)

SIGN UP

The GreenWrench Program provides free pollution prevention guidance and training to District auto body and repair shops. GreenWrench services include:

1. Technical assistance visits
2. Workshops
3. GreenWrench Toolbox Newsletter
4. Certification

Sign up online at

doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench

or by calling (202) 645-4231.

Air pollution is a hazard to human health. Continuous exposure to poor air can cause cancer, asthma, respiratory issues, myriad other chronic conditions, and diseases — not just for auto shop mechanics, but for the community at large. Auto body shops emit pollutants into the air by sanding, painting, and cleaning cars through the use of cleaners, degreasers, and paints that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are human-made chemicals that are used and produced in the manufacture of automotive chemicals and products. Use of these VOC products and others are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy and Environment.

Auto body shops are required to have air quality permits for painting operations and any parts washers with VOC based solvents.

Permit application fees for 5-year permits are as follows (effective June 5, 2020):

Paint booth: \$500
Parts washer: \$250

What can you do?

1. Try safer, healthier, less toxic chemicals such as low/no VOC cleaners and degreasers.

Through technical assistance, GreenWrench can provide **free** safer products for shops to test and provide reviews. Contact Rebecca Stack at DesignGreen at (202) 849-0388 or info@designgreenllc.com.

2. Confirm your shop has the right air permits or it could result in a fine. See doee.dc.gov/service/airpermits for more information. You can also contact the Air Quality Permitting Branch at (202) 535-1747 or aqd.permitting@dc.gov with any questions about permits or fees.

3. Train staff on proper techniques for painting to decrease the release of toxic chemicals in the air. Better techniques and more environmentally friendly products can also decrease costs.

EXPANDING GREENWRENCH

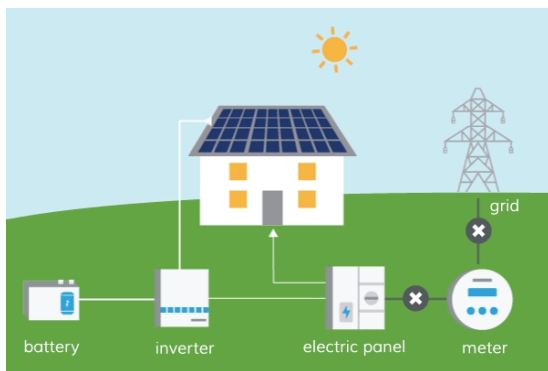


DOEE will continue to offer GreenWrench through Fall 2022 and will include new clean energy elements. (Photo from ecowatch.com)

DOEE received an additional 2 years of support from the EPA to expand the scope of the GreenWrench Program.

DOEE launched GreenWrench in 2017, and it will now continue until at least Fall 2022. The new grant will allow DOEE to expand

the program to include information and training on the future of clean energy and transportation in the District.



Graphic showing how solar energy is captured and stored in a battery. (Photo from energysage.com)

WASHINGTON DC'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Every year with greater frequency the District of Columbia suffers from severe storms, hotter temperatures, and sea level rise. Since DC is surrounded by tidal rivers, sea level rise caused by climate change produces extreme flooding. The city has been actively working to combat climate change and improve air quality. Mayor Muriel Bowser's Clean Energy DC Plan is a roadmap to cut DC's greenhouse emissions in half by 2032.

The Plan covers actions in the building, transportation, and energy sectors. From a buildings perspective it is vital that buildings use less energy first, then switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy such as solar panels. On the transportation side, DC is encouraging people to mode shift from single occupancy cars to public transportation. The city has plans to electrify transportation through electric buses and cars. For privately owned vehicles, the District is striving for 25% or about 75,000 zero emission vehicle registrations by 2030, and 100% of registered vehicles by 2045.

What does this mean for you?

1. Decrease energy use first, then install solar panels plus battery storage. Batteries store solar energy to use during peak times of day including during the weekdays when electricity prices are at the highest prices. Options to fund these projects are available through the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) and the DC PACE program.

Contact the DCSEU at (202) 479-2222 or info@dcseu.com and the PACE program at dcpace.com or contact Kenley Farmer at (202) 671-3314 or more information.

2. Sign up for the District Buying Power Program. Through bulk energy purchasing, district-endorsed District Buying Power can lower your business's energy costs and help with utility management & benchmark reporting.

Learn More at districtbuyingpower.com or contact Lolita Perry at Lolita.perry@dc.gov.

AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR DRIVERS WITH OUTSTANDING TICKETS ENDS SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

April 2021 Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a four-month amnesty program giving drivers the opportunity to pay outstanding tickets for parking, photo enforcement (including speed, red-light, and stop sign), and minor moving violations. The amnesty program runs from June 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021, and includes tickets issued before September 30, 2021.

More information at: <https://dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-announces-amnesty-program-drivers-outstanding-tickets-enforcement-functions>.

Expanding GreenWrench (continued)

GreenWrench will be expanded to:

1. Provide free information and resources on renewable energy and clean transportation topics such as solar and fixing electric vehicles. The Certification process, Guidebook, Checklist, and P2 Plan will all be updated with this new information.
 2. Work with local technical schools to teach aspiring mechanics about electric vehicle repair.
 3. Include additional financing options for energy efficiency upgrades and solar financing projects.
- For questions or more information contact gwe@dc.gov or Kendra Wiley at (202) 313-2349.

YOUR COMPLIANCE WITH WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS DEPENDS ON YOUR LOCATION

Water quality regulations in the District work to protect streams and rivers from pollution picked up by rain and snow melt (“stormwater”). The District has two different types of sewer systems, one of which drains directly to streams and rivers with little, if any, treatment and is called the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This means the location of your business determines which regulations apply to your operations.

To find out which sewer system your facility is located in go to geospatial.dcgis.dc.gov/WatershedFinder and enter the address.

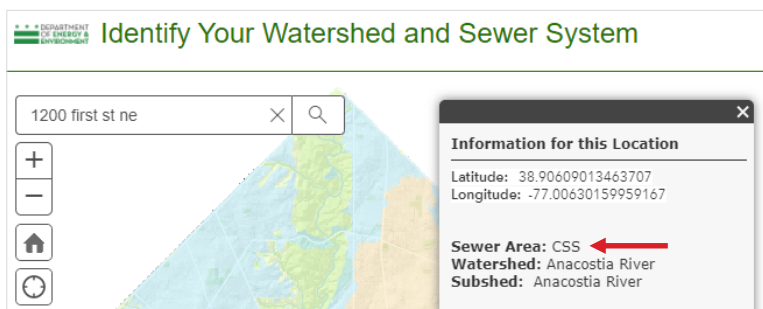
If the “Sewer Area” field says “MS4” or “Direct Drain” you need a plan. If your facility is in an MS4 or Direct Drain area, the facility is required to have a plan to prevent pollution from leaving your facility because stormwater from your site drains directly to local streams and rivers. All automotive shops that are in MS4 or direct drain areas need to have a Spill Prevention and Cleanup Plan to comply with the District’s 1984 Water Pollution Control Act. This plan should describe the procedures, equipment, and employee training to prevent and clean up spills, and must be approved by DOEE. To get approval, please send your plan to David.Pilat@dc.gov or Department of Energy and Environment, c/o NRA Inspection and Enforcement Division, 1200 First Street NE, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20002.

Facilities with industrial activities, including those that service *taxicabs, buses, limousines, and moving trucks, and salvage yards*, have additional federal permitting

requirements if they are located in MS4 or direct drain areas. These facility need to apply to the EPA for coverage under the federal Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP), a free process. More information on the MSGP permit can be found at epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-industrial-activities.

If the “Sewer Area” field says “CSS” you may need to contact DC Water. In the combined sewer system (CSS) areas of the District, stormwater goes to DC Water’s Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant before it is released into the Potomac River. Depending on your operations, your business may need to apply for DC Water’s industrial stormwater permit, which has application and annual fees. More information can be found at: dcwater.com/industrial-user-wastewater-discharge-permit.

If you need assistance with these permits or your Spill Prevention and Cleanup Plan GreenWrench can help. Contact Rebecca Stack at DesignGreen at (202) 849-0388 or info@designgreenllc.com.





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DID YOU KNOW?

Buildings and shops that use electricity and gas created from fossil fuels contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, which are gases in the atmosphere that trap heat and make the Earth hotter.

Congress extended the federal solar investment tax credit (ITC) for solar panel installations for 2 years to 2022. When a home or business owner buys a new solar system, it may be eligible for a 26% tax credit for the cost of the system. The credit would be applied to the purchaser's federal income taxes.

If someone does not want to buy a brand new system, there are options such as solar power purchase agreements (PPAs), where the solar installers lease home or business roof space, and the occupants enjoy the solar energy.

Find out more information: doee.dc.gov/service/solar-initiatives

