



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

TOOLBOX NEWSLETTER

## DID YOU KNOW?

That the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a list of products called Safer Choice that helps consumers, businesses, and purchasers find products that both perform and are safer for human health and the environment.

Find products at [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice)



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# TOOLBOX

FEBRUARY 2020

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE MAINTENANCE



*According to the 2018 Automotive Trends Report, Electric vehicles (EVs) are a small but growing percentage of new vehicles (Photo by EPA)*

The automobile industry continues to innovate, improve, and set new environmental standards, including many advancements in electric vehicles (EVs) which are growing in popularity.

Because EVs use electricity instead of gasoline and have an electric motor instead of an internal combustion engine, they have unique maintenance requirements.

The high voltage electrical system is the heart and soul of an EV, and for that reason its battery is essential. Most manufacturers offer 8-year/100,000-mile warranties for their batteries, and when the battery needs to be replaced it can cost \$6,000. These batteries should be recycled whenever possible.

EV's deliver so much torque directly from the motor to the tires, the tires wear out faster than traditional vehicles. When maintaining EVs don't forget to check the tires. The tires should be checked every month and replaced when the tread wears down to 2/32 of an inch.

### Resources:

**DOEE Sustainable Car Ownership:** [https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service\\_content/attachments/Sustainable%20Car%20Ownership\\_4-11-19.pdf](https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service_content/attachments/Sustainable%20Car%20Ownership_4-11-19.pdf)

**The EPA Automotive Trends Report:** <https://www.epa.gov/automotive-trends>

**US Department of Energy Electric Car Safety, Maintenance, and Battery Life:** <https://www.energy.gov/eere/electricvehicles/electric-car-safety-maintenance-and-battery-life>

## SIGN UP

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

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

Sign up online at [doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench](https://doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench) or by calling (202) 645-4231.



# MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE GREENWRENCH

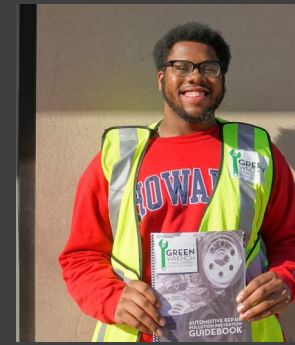
GreenWrench Technical Assistance has a new team. Designgreen has been recruiting and helping shops since October.

If you see them in your neighborhood, ask them how they can help!



**Trang Le**

Hello, my name is Trang Le. I am an Environmental Scientist at Designgreen. Previously, I helped auto body shops with environmental compliance while working at the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration. I am excited to apply my knowledge as the outreach leader for the GreenWrench program.



**Kelvin Williams Jr.**

Hello, my name is Kelvin Williams Jr. I am currently a student at Howard University studying environmental economics. I have a great passion for the environment and those who live in it. I was lucky enough to get an internship with Designgreen to turn my passion into actions. I look forward to helping your auto shop become eco-friendly.



**Rebecca Stack**

Hello, my name is Rebecca Stack. I am the owner of Designgreen. I am a civil engineer that specializes in programs that connect residents and businesses with environmental stewardship.

I will be supporting staff in their outreach to auto shops throughout the District.

## BOWSER ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES MILESTONE IN CLEANUP PLAN FOR THE ANACOSTIA RIVER

In December 2019, the Bowser Administration announced an important milestone in plans to clean up the Anacostia River, the Proposed Plan for the Anacostia River Sediment Project.

The plan will make the river and two other bodies of water safer for the public and improve environmental health, and is now available for public comment in the DC Register and on the project's website: [anacostiasedimentproject.com](http://anacostiasedimentproject.com)

“Our mission is to make the District the most sustainable city in the nation, and this includes ensuring we keep our environment healthy by eliminating contaminants from our waterways,” said Tommy Wells, Director of the District of Columbia’s Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). “The completion of the Proposed Plan marks a significant step in restoring the Anacostia River to its former

glory, and making it safer for the public and wildlife.”

Since 2015, DOEE has been studying pollution in the nine-mile tidal portion of the Anacostia River, Kingman Lake, and Washington Channel.

Elevated concentrations of pollution, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and pesticides from industrial, urban, and human activities were found in the mud at the bottom of the river (sediment), posing a risk to aquatic wildlife and humans. ***These pollutants have been traced to sources including auto body and repair shops.***

Read the Proposed Plan to clean up the sediment and share your comments by January 26, 2020 (a 30 day extension can be requested). More information can be found at the Project's website: [anacostiasedimentproject.com](http://anacostiasedimentproject.com)

## LOCATION-SPECIFIC STORMWATER RUNOFF REGULATIONS

Where your shop is located determines which stormwater regulations apply to your business or organization because the District of Columbia has two types of sewer systems.

Luckily GreenWrench has a guidebook and provides technical assistance to help you navigate the regulations. Visit [doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench](http://doee.dc.gov/service/greenwrench).

The **Combined Sewer System (CSS)** is operated by DC Water. Stormwater runoff and sewage mix together in this sewer and go to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Shops in the CSS may need a DC Water Permit. Visit [www.dwater.com/permits](http://www.dwater.com/permits).

The **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** is operated by the District. Stormwater runoff goes directly into local streams and rivers with little to no treatment.

Shops in the MS4 are typically considered critical sources of pollution and subject to inspections and some activities, like vehicle washing, are prohibited. Visit [doee.dc.gov/service/separate-storm-sewer-system-ms4-permit](http://doee.dc.gov/service/separate-storm-sewer-system-ms4-permit)

- If the shop services fleet vehicles, it may need a federal permit for industrial stormwater runoff. Visit [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-industrial-activities](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-industrial-activities)

To find out whether your shop is located in the CSS or MS4, search for your address at the “Identify your

**Map of the District’s Sewer**

