Air quality, pollution control and maintaining a healthy environment with the air we breathe are frequently considered to be the responsibility of large manufacturing and industrial businesses. In Ohio, small businesses like dry cleaners, auto body shops, printing facilities and others share this responsibility.

The Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), a program of the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, is a valuable resource to help small businesses comply with state and federal air quality and emissions regulations.

CARC assists small businesses with financing structured to meet the needs of individual projects through OAQDA-issued conduit bonds. These bonds can be federally tax exempt or taxable, depending on what best suits the business. All are exempt from Ohio income, real property, sales and use taxes for the term of the financing. OAQDA will work with the lender selected by the business to implement the loan.

To qualify for CARC financing, Ohio small businesses must be current with required Ohio EPA permits, have 100 or fewer employees, emit less than 75 tons per year of all regulated air pollutants and emit 50 or less tons of any regulated pollutant.

Financing through CARC covers 30 percent of the cost of equipment purchased, capped at $30,000. These grants are applied directly to the principal balance of the loan. OAQDA also reimburses the business for all reasonable closing costs.

About OAQDA

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 website at www.ohioairquality.org.
Kumler Collision, Lancaster, OH
Kumler Collision, an automotive paint and body repair shop established in 1928 in Lancaster, was awarded $250,000 to replace its 25 year-old paint booths with two new state of the art downdraft paint booths. The new booths 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. Prior to the installation of the new paint booths, Kumler had to split many jobs into two cycles due to lack of space in the existing booths.

Highlander Dry Cleaning, Newark, OH
Highlander Cleaning Centers, Inc. of Newark added new jobs and reduced utility costs as the result of $50,000 in financing issued by OAQDA through CARC. Highlander Cleaning Centers used the funds to purchase new “hybrid” dry cleaning equipment that enabled it to stop using the solvent percylethylene. The new equipment allowed the company to eliminate 95 percent of the hazardous waste previously produced. In addition, because the hybrid equipment does not need steam to operate, Highlander cut its utility usage by two-thirds.

Hausfeld Classics, Springboro, OH
A Warren County business known for quality classic car restoration expanded its service to include complete collision repair for all types of vehicles thanks to CARC financing. Hausfeld Classics, a classic automobile restoration and collision repair shop established in 2010 in Springboro, was approved by OAQDA for $79,533 to add a new down draft paint booth and oven. Hausfeld is the only business of its kind in the Springboro area. With the addition of the new paint booth, the shop offers collision repair services to all types of vehicles – not just classic cars – and anticipates that it will add employees to handle the projected increase in business.

JDM Services, Columbus, OH
JDM Services, LLC of Columbus, the company selected to remove the concrete portions from the demolition of Veterans Memorial Auditorium, faced significant challenges with emissions from dust and particulate matter due to the nature of the materials used in the old building. OAQDA approved $1,538,650 in revenue bonds through the CARC program to assist JDM in covering the debt incurred in purchasing a mobile recycling plant for the collection and reprocessing of construction and demolition debris. The equipment, which was used on the Veterans Memorial demolition, crushes large pieces of concrete into a reusable stone product which can be left on-site and used in construction of a new building.

Businesses We Have Helped
Through the Clean Air Resource Center, OAQDA supports the efforts of Ohio businesses to become clean air facilities in local communities and comply with environmental regulations. A few examples of businesses that have utilized financial assistance from CARC include: