



For Immediate Release

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Knauz Auto Park Receives Award for Environmental Leadership in Illinois

CHICAGO, (November 9, 2010) – Knauz Auto Park today announced that it has received the Illinois Governor's Sustainability Award for its environmental stewardship in Illinois. Since 1987, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) and the Illinois Governor's Office have presented this award to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.

Knauz Auto Park is the first Sustainability Award winner from an automobile dealership. Implementing environmentally sensitive solutions that benefit workers, the community, and the environment, while also benefiting the business, has helped Knauz be a sales leader year after year.

"Investing in sustainability creates jobs, boosts our economy and is an investment in our future. These awards foster innovation and encourage our universities and businesses to help us build a stronger, greener Illinois. The winner's have led the way in finding and using innovative ways of reducing waste and protecting the environment," Gov. Quinn said. "They have made an ongoing commitment to pollution prevention practices that, in the long run, are good for them, their employees, their communities and all of us in Illinois."

Solvent Systems International helped Knauz achieve these benefits by replacing hazardous products with safer, plant-based alternatives. Solvent Systems International (SSI), located in Elk Grove Village IL, is an expert in beneficial reuse, industrial waste recycling and pollution prevention. SSI manufactures a line of USDA Certified Biobased cleaning chemicals that are plant-based and better for humans and the environment.

The Knauz Program included the following areas:

- Replaced mineral spirits parts washers with a plant-based and renewable solvent removing a hazardous chemical from the operation while reducing 3.5 tons of VOC emissions per year.
- Changed to a biobased floor cleaner which maintains Knauz clean floor requirements while reducing indoor air pollution.
- Eliminated aerosols: 6,500 cans of brake cleaner, 7,500 cans of carpet cleaner, and 2,000 cans of penetrant annually saving over 4 tons of solid waste from being landfilled and over 3.5 tons of VOCs emissions from the atmosphere while providing the same service quality. Additionally, new product distribution allows better project cost allocation allowing more efficient billing.
- Upgraded to metal halide light fixtures achieving an energy savings of 12,470 kWh per year.
- Eliminated the use of 110,000 lbs of sodium chloride to melt ice changing to a Urea based (carbonyl diamide/glycol) mixture that is safe for people, animals and inhibits nitrogen in bodies of water.

About Knauz: The Knauz automotive dealership story began in 1934 when our founder Karl Knauz opened up a Desoto dealership. Fast forward to today and Knauz AutoPark has expanded to a 35 acre campus in Lake Forest Illinois and comprises dealerships for Mercedes-Benz, BMW, MINI, Land Rover, Hyundai, and Smart automobiles. For more information on Knauz visit www.knauz.com.
