

Stairway to Heaven

Recyclers from coast to coast are working with the Car Heaven program to help clean the air.



Since 2000, the Car Heaven angels have done their part to protect the environment by taking more than 43,000 ELVs off the road, dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and smog forming pollutants.

In June of 2000 Angels took to the streets in the province of Ontario, visiting gas stations and summer festivals telling people of a path they had laid out for their older higher polluting vehicles, a path taking them straight to Car Heaven.

Six years and 8 provinces later, these Angels have led more than 43,000 vehicles to a better place, reducing roughly 29,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and 5,000 tonnes of smog-forming pollutants from re-entering our environment.

The Angels work on behalf of the Car Heaven program, a partnership between the Auto Recyclers of Canada (ARC) and the Clean Air Foundation, encouraging Canadians to bring their end of life vehicles in to auto recycling facilities where they will be dismantled and recycled in the most environmentally-friendly manner possible. In exchange for this, vehicle donors will be given such incentives as charitable tax receipts and \$1,000 off a new GM vehicle.

"The response of Canadian motorists to the program has been phenomenal and Car Heaven has grown so much in the last few years," Says Car Heaven Program Manager Fatima Dharsee. "In 2007, we look to build on this momentum by continuing to expand the program, bringing Car Heaven to the rest of Canada."

More than 200 recyclers across Canada work with Car Heaven to ensure that reusable parts are salvaged (to avoid the need for re-manufacture) and that any hazardous materials and components are diverted from landfills.

The Car Heaven program is also raising the profile of the automotive recycling industry, and highlight the environmentally friendly practices in which they operate.

Between 2004 and 2005, the program retired over 13,000 old clunkers. This year they have already taken over 19,000 cars off the road.

Car Heaven continues to expand as the Car Heaven program will soon be available in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. ■