

Gwinnett Daily Post

Gwinnett County, Georgia

You Are Here: > [Business](#) > Article

NEWS

[Front Page](#)

[Local/State](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Nation/World](#)

[Business News](#)

[Editorials](#)

[Sports](#)

[Life & Leisure](#)

[Weekend/Movies](#)

[Gwinnett Gab](#)

[Health/Wellness](#)

[Home & Garden](#)

[Taste & Travel](#)

[Family & Spirit](#)

[Archives](#)

[Corrections](#)

SERVICES

[Classifieds](#)

[Legal Ads](#)

[Photo Galleries](#)

[Subscriber Services](#)

[Reader Submission](#)

[Forms](#)

[Career Fair](#)

[Special Sections](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Advertising Dept.](#)

[Circulation Dept.](#)

[Editorial Dept.](#)

[About Us](#)

[Links](#)

[Community Links](#)

[Local Traffic](#)

[Information](#)

[Lottery](#)

[Stocks](#)

[TV Listings](#)

[Weather](#)

[Car recycling facility gets environmental award](#)

11/05/2006

By Arielle Kass

Staff Writer

arielle.kass@gwinnettdaily.com



NORCROSS - Steve Levetan fancies his business as the Home Depot of car parts.

Customers who enter Pull-A-Part get a wheelbarrow and bring their own tools. Levetan is the senior vice president of the company that offers a do-it-yourself approach to finding the right bumper, door or transmission.

But in addition to selling car parts cheaply, Levetan prides himself on the benefits his business has for the environment - so much so that they have won several environmental awards, including the first-place award for waste minimization from Keep Georgia Beautiful earlier this month.

Pull-A-Part empties all liquids from a vehicle before placing it on its yard, Levetan said, and recycles them - that's transmission fluid, oil, antifreeze, gasoline and everything else that goes in a car. Levetan estimated the chain's seven locations recycle 50,000 gallons of fluids at each location, including their first store in Norcross, every year.

That and the parts that are recycled from cars the company buys helps those vehicles have 125 fewer pounds of waste than other cars when they are finally shredded, Levetan said.

The nine-year-old company grew out of families who dealt with scrap metal, Levetan said.

"It was started as a way to get cars to the shredder," he said. "We knew what the problems were in getting cars into the shredder, so we came into the business with a whole different perspective."

There are about 2,000 cars on a 17-acre lot at the Norcross location. Those cars are kept in neat rows, and the oldest row is rotated out as new cars arrive. Customers pay \$1 to enter the facility, which lets them search the company's computer database for the kind of car they're looking for and scour the yard for the part they need.

Car parts are sold by part - a door is a door, and it costs the same regardless of the vehicle it came off.

Levetan said he is elated that the company was recognized for their environmental success, but not surprised.

"It's what we do," he said. "We set new standards in this industry. Others in the business will ultimately have to clean up, meet this new standard we've set, or they won't survive."

Cars are one of the most recyclable products created, Levetan said, and removing fluids and parts keeps them from being added to landfills.

"If we're not there doing what we do, I can't tell you where the fluids go," he said. "While many in this business are getting environmental citations, we're getting environmental awards. We invite regulators to come visit us, but most people in this industry cringe at the thought."

 [Email This Article](#)

 [Printer Friendly](#)

[Other Headlines »](#)

[**Fiscal roadshow warns Americans of trouble ahead**](#)

[**Young tidal energy companies stake claims on the coast**](#)

[**Mortgage fraud up 35 percent, agency reports**](#)

[**Federal judge dismisses Turkish labor-dispute lawsuit**](#)

[**American, Delta lead several carriers into boosting fares**](#)

[**AT&T-BellSouth vote delayed**](#)

[**Critic finds evidence of plagiarism in many Wikipedia entries**](#)

[**Wal-Mart cuts electronics prices before holidays**](#)

[**Krispy Kreme's annual report shows struggle to sell doughnuts**](#)

[»](#)