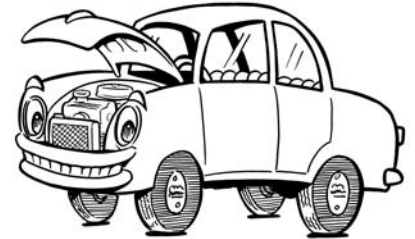


**“The Family Car”
ESL Lesson on Used Oil Recycling
Report FY 2007-2008
Marin County**



The target audience for this project is newcomers to California, a critical population; since research conducted for the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) has shown them to be as much as five times more likely than the general population to improperly dispose of used oil.

The lesson “The Family Car” was developed by C²: Alternative Services, and introduced in Marin County in FY 2006-2007 through a CIWMB grant to C². Analysis of data from 600 classes taught in 19 counties through the grant demonstrated the program’s effectiveness, including an estimated 100,000 gallons of used oil diverted from improper disposal in the first year of the program. Following completion of this grant, the classes described in this report were funded by The Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program using Used Oil Block Grant funds.

The lesson was taught in eight classes in Marin County. All of the students were adult ESL learners and the classes were taught through The Indian Valley College, College of Marin and Adult Schools including Tomales Elementary School, Bahia Vista Elementary and San Rafael High School. A total of 159 students participated in the classes. Most were beginning or intermediate classes or mixed beginning/intermediate.

Eight native languages were spoken by students in the classes, including Spanish, Albanian, Portuguese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Turkish, Libyan and Mayan/Aztec.

Seventy-seven percent of the students had cars, and 48% of all students reported that they or someone in their household changed their own oil. This is well over twice the state average for DIYer households.

The feedback from teachers and students was very positive. Here are some excerpts from class record forms filled in by teachers in Marin County:

- *“They really liked the information and were very appreciative and receptive. A lot of them do recycling at home and were happy there are many oil recycling centers.”*
- *“(from a student) Good to know. My husband changes oil, I didn't know anything. But now I know...”*
- *“Students were genuinely interested and concerned with the impact of their actions on the earth and wanted to do the right action to protect the earth for themselves and their children.”*
- *“I like the way they were interested in the subject. Their questions were really clever and really showed their interest.”*

We would like to propose a similar level of funding for FY 2008-2009. For more information on the project, please take a look at www.thefamilycar.info, where you’ll see many of the lesson materials we provide as well as extensive resources for teachers. The final report for the CIWMB grant with evaluation data is also available on the site.