

For Auto Parts City  
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Re: Feds grant temporary reprieve for "Clunkers"

For Immediate Release

## CONSUMERS AND RECYCLERS BENEFIT FROM TIME EXTENSION TO PROCESS "CASH FOR CLUNKERS"

Gurnee, Ill.--While we cannot account for all of the nearly 700,000 "Cash for Clunkers" that were traded in during the Federal Government's program, we do know where approximately 1175 of them are: the new Auto Parts City.

The Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save (CARS) program intended to stimulate new car sales indirectly gave buyers either \$3500 or \$4500 for their trade-in.

According to Larry and Jay Brosten, owners of APC, the Cash for Clunkers program didn't necessarily take the least road-worthy vehicles off of American roadways.

"A lot of the vehicles we are recycling are between six to 10 years old," Jay Brosten explained. "We have taken in many SUVs, minivans and light trucks as a result of the program, but the odometer (miles driven) readings are really low by used car standards." Many would have been very marketable as used cars, if they had not been traded in as "Clunkers."

The reason so many of the "Cash for Clunkers" aren't clunkers in the classic sense comes down to practical economics.

"Most people who drive the least roadworthy vehicles can't afford new car loans," Larry Brosten said.

Instead, it was qualified new-car buyers willing to accept the government-subsidized \$3500 or \$4500 for their used vehicles rather than try to get \$5000, \$6000 or more on their own who accounted for a large percentage of the participants. That was especially true given the distressed prices new cars sold for in the last half of 2009.

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The Brostens stressed strict federal guidelines are in place to ensure all the vehicles will be recycled and not marketed as used cars.

Those guidelines specify that all engines must be disabled and cannot be resold, and all the vehicle hulls must be crushed and shredded no later than 270 days from the date of the trade in. As a result of recent negotiations between the Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) and the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) the crush/shred date was increased an additional 90 days from its original mandate of 180 days.

“The extension is a good thing for used parts consumers, recyclers and the environment.” Larry Brosten said. “While this program took in a lot of cars, there are still a lot more vehicles just like them on the road. The additional 90 days will give people a chance to visit APC and harvest high-quality used parts rather than having to buy new parts. Reuse is a key principal of sound environmental practices.”

The Brostens agree that the “Cash for Clunkers” program did some good things, but they also said that if the government decides to launch a similar program in the future, regulators should consult automotive dealers and recyclers earlier in the legislative process.

Auto Parts City is one of Larry and Jay Brosten’s automotive businesses. The Brosten family has been involved in auto salvage and recycling since the 1930s. In 1976, Larry & Jay moved Hy-Way Auto Parts to its present location at Routes 173 and 41 in Wadsworth, IL. There, they created one of the nation’s premier environmentally conscious auto recycling facilities. The site is next to the DesPlaines River and is surrounded by the Lake County Forest Preserve. In 2000, Ford Motor Company bought Hy-Way and changed the name to Greenleaf™. The Brostens remained on staff at Greenleaf for several years afterward as part of their management team. Ford sold Greenleaf in 2005.

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*To find out more about Auto Parts City new location, auto recycling or to arrange an interview with Larry or Jay Brosten contact: Jordan Madorsky 847.872.1628  
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