

Q Environmental Expands with SBA Loan



Kaemerz Dotiwala

Q Environmental, Inc., which started its operations in 2003, has developed a special niche in the environmental business of providing sustainable environmental solutions to their clients through recycling and cutting edge technology in the delivery of green products and services. Their services include the collection, transportation and recycling of petroleum based non-hazardous waste and by-product streams and converting their customers' waste to assets like fuel oil blend stock, base oils, etc., for resale. They are also distributors of state of the art storm water filters considered BMP (Best Management Practice by the EPA) as well as green vapor depressants, degreasers and cleaners. All of these products can safely be used for oil spill clean-up without harming the environment.

Kaemerz Dotiwala is the president of Q Environmental. His educational background is in international relations and international law. He was the vice president of administration for a crude oil company until the industry took a down turn in 1983. Dotiwala looked at other alternatives and found a market for recycling used oil. He discovered a niche that benefited not only his company but also that of his clients and the environment. By buying and recycling used oil and anti-freeze that would normally be discarded in landfills, he's also helping protect the environment while turning his clients' trash to cash.

Q Environmental employs a staff of seven experienced professionals and maintains a strict compliance policy approved by state and federal regulators. They have an in-house lab that checks the collected oil for signs of hazardous waste and uses an independent petroleum lab to monitor the veracity of the test results.

In 2004, Q Environmental was approved for a SBA 504 program loan to expand their business. "I had many obstacles, but the main one was obtaining financing. Without the SBA 504 loan program I would not be where I am today. The loan enabled me to hire more employees, buy a new facility and equipment," said Dotiwala. In addition, Dotiwala also took advantage of free technical assistance and counseling from SCORE and the University of Houston Small Business Development Center, both resource partners of the SBA. He added, "It is the best assistance money cannot buy".

In addition to contracts with Kwik Kar oil change franchises, Houston Metro, and Capital Metro, they recently received a contract from the City of Houston. Like many companies, the City of Houston used to pay for the disposal of oil. The contract with Q Environmental allows the City to capitalize on waste and make money.

Recently in September 2009, Dotiwala was approved to participate in the SBA 8(a) business development program. The 8(a) program is a business development program created to help small disadvantaged businesses compete in the market place and gain access to federal and private procurement markets. The focus of the program is to provide business development support, such as mentoring, procurement assistance, business counseling, training, financial assistance, surety bonding and other management and technical assistance. Dotiwala hopes to get some federal contracts to help him expand into other markets that he hasn't been able to.

Q Environmental is also HUBZone certified. The HUBZone program's purpose is promote job growth, capital investment, and economic development to historically underutilized business zones, referred to as HUBZones, by providing contracting assistance to small businesses located in economically distressed communities.

"The downturn in the economy did affect my business, but I'm glad that the government is focused on helping small businesses. I think the economy is turning around and small businesses will start doing things they used to," said Dotiwala. Q Environmental recently hired another employee and looks forward to adding more people to their staff.

For more information about Q Environmental, visit their website at www.qenvironmental.com. Information about SBA programs and services can be found at visit www.sba.gov.