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Interview with Farhad Ghafarzade, Green Drop Garage, 2010 (audio)

Farhad Ghafarzade

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT <u>INTERVIEW INDEX</u>

INTERVIEWEE: _Farhad Ghafarzade
Interviewer:Jeff Howard
Date: 8/6/2010
Location of Interview:Green Drop Garage in SE Portland
Research Assistant: _Rayne Walter-Young
Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES
Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN
EXTERNAL OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time Notes

00:02	How long have you lived in Portland?
	-Originally from Beaverton
	-Lived in Portland for 4 years
00:53	Where did you go to school and what did you study?
	-University of California at Santa Cruz
	-Molecular Biology
1:05	What brought you back to Portland?
	-Came back to visit family
	-Returning as an adult incited a love of the city
1:44	How did your degree in Molecular Biology help you with your business?
	-Helped with communication
	-Background in Biology opened doors
	-Aided in confidence
3:27	How did you become involved in your line of work?
	-Transportation for surfing
	-Fellow student at UCSC used biodiesel
	-Obtained a Mercedes at great price and became more entrenched in using biodiesel
10:34	-Sold original car, bought another. Grew into a business

Time	Notes
THILE	NOLES

	-Rather than focusing on rebuilding aspect, focused on business aspect					
	-Recylery facility was for sale. Took the opportunity to start Green Drop Garage					
11:04	How do you define sustainability?					
	-triple bottom line; financial, social, environmental					
	HERE IS THE BREAK!!					
	Can you describe a typical day/week/event at the shop?					
	-Mainly communicating with customers					
	-Transitioning from working on the cars to supervising the shop					
	-Focusing on making environmental advances with respect to shop practices					
	What is your proudest achievement?					
	-seeing the pride and commitment his employees feel towards the shop					
	What other practices do you participate in that exemplify sustainability?					
	-Eco friendly fluids					
	-The use of wind power					
	-seeking out sustainably certifications to implement					
	What changes in sustainability are witnessing?					
	-awareness					
	Does Portland affect your business?					
	-Portland is more strict					
	-More of a concern over quality as compared to pricing					
	Can you tell me more about your bike loan program?					
	-Customer are given a bike, if they like, while their cars are worked on					
	-Want to expand the program					