

# Next DTE Solar Array Will Be Built at Charitable Orion Plant

by Gerald Scott

To say the sun's shining brightly over the GM Orion Assembly these days would be just short of an overstatement.

New product, including the Buick Verano and Chevrolet Sonic, has the workforce busy, the President visited the factory a few months ago and just last week there was an announcement about a solar panel project.

That is, in a field next to the Orion plant, GM announced that it and its partners will soon host a solar array with enough capacity to annually power 45 homes in Michigan.

The energy from a planned 350-kilowatt array owned by DTE will be sent back to the grid for use by area homes and

businesses.

In total, the energy saved will be equivalent to avoiding 261 metric tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere.

Anyway, GM and its partners, including DTE Energy, hosted a shovel-in-the-dirt ground-breaking of this project in the empty fields just east and south of the Orion plant last week.

"Last year, we committed to doubling our global solar output at our facilities from 30 megawatts to 60, by 2015," said Mike Robinson, vice president - Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs at GM.

"We believe in harnessing energy from clean, renewable resources because there is a solid business case to be made and it's good for the environment. This array rein-

forces our progress."

The planned array is part of DTE Energy's "SolarCurrents" pilot program that calls for the installation of photovoltaic systems on customer rooftops or property during the next three years. The goal is to generate 15 megawatts of electricity throughout Southeast Michigan (via solar panels).

"Solar Currents' builds on our long relationship with GM to help it become as energy-efficient as possible," said Trevor Lauer, DTE Energy vice president - Marketing & Renewables. "Our partnership with GM is another example of how our companies work to build a more energy-efficient and sustainable future."

DTE will build the array at GM Orion on a two-acre parcel, fac-

ing south, to maximize output.

The solar array is just the latest example of GM Orion's ongoing environmental efforts.

Note that the auto plant is powered by gas from two nearby landfills, saving \$1.1 million per year and cutting the amount of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released into the air from plant operations. This also saves more than 6,300 tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere.

Also, lighting upgrades in the plant have saved \$575,895 in electricity costs while cutting back on CO2 by 5,003 metric tons through the use of software that allows plant employees to track energy usage in real-time to improve efficiencies. This is equivalent to the energy used by 442 homes.



From left, DTE Energy Vice President - Marketing Trevor Lauer, GM VP - Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs Mike Robinson and GM Orion Plant Manager Steve Brock break ground.

## GM Supports Charities in Oakland Communities

by Gerald Scott

Just as GM and DTE Energy announced a plan to develop a new solar array at the Orion Assembly Plant in Lake Orion, GM followed that news with a little philanthropic sunshine of its own, so to speak.

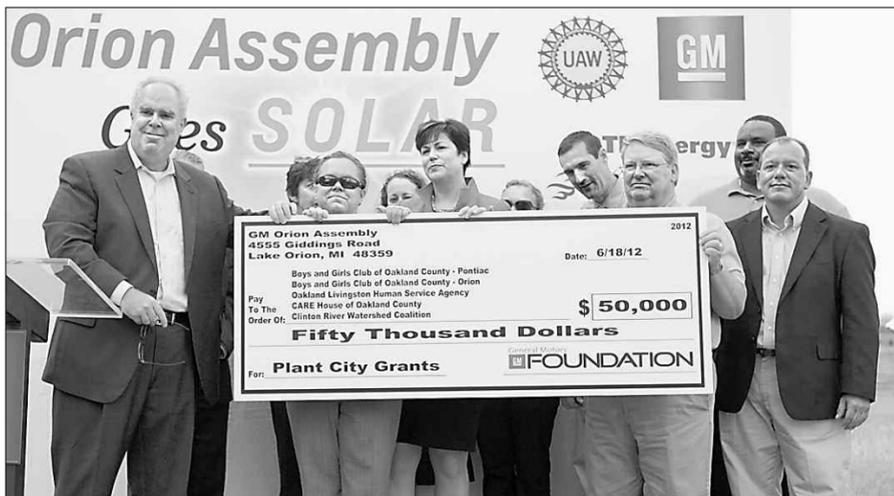
Open in Northern Oakland County since 1983, the GM Orion plant has traditionally been very involved in community and philanthropic activities.

At the Orion solar array news conference, GM also spread a little sunshine across the Oakland County charitable community.

That's because in partnership with Orion Assembly, the General Motors Foundation presented a total of \$50,000 to support organizations within the Lake Orion community that provides services and benefits for local family.

In total, the GM Foundation will provide more than \$1 million in funding grants to nearly 200 organizations in 43 plant cities across the country where GM employees live and work.

Through these grants, the GM Foundation is building stronger communities and enriching the lives of GM Ori-



General Motors Vice President - Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs Mike Robinson, left, presents a \$50,000 check from General Motors Foundation to Lake Orion community organizations.

on's neighbors across Northern Oakland County. The General Motors Foundation grant will support area charities, including the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency; Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan (Pontiac and Orion/Oxford Clubs); Clinton River Watershed Council and the CARE House of Oakland County.

"Lake Orion is not only where our employees come to

work each day, it is where our families, friends and neighbors live," said Steve Brock, Orion Assembly Plant manager.

"The local organizations that we support are integral in its development, and we are proud to play a part in giving back."

Indeed, in addition to 2012 grants totaling more than \$1 million, the GM Foundation also granted \$1 million to non-

profit organizations in GM plant cities in 2011, alone.

The General Motors Foundation's commitment continues as it works, in conjunction with employees, local leaders and community groups to continue to identify areas of need.

The grants will make possible activities ranging from opportunities for low-income, elderly, and persons with disabilities to be more active.

## EPA Awards GM Energy Certification in Lansing

LANSING - General Motors' Lansing Customer Care and Aftersales parts distribution center reached landfill-free status and has earned ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy efficiency from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The facility generates 35 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions and 35 percent less energy than similar buildings nationwide. It also is GM's 100th facility to recycle, reuse or convert to energy all waste from daily operations.

"GM is committed to reducing its environmental footprint worldwide," said Mike

Robinson, GM vice president of sustainability and global regulatory policy.

"This distribution center in Lansing is proof of our drive to be energy-efficient and increase recycling throughout our operations."

To qualify for ENERGY STAR certification, the plant had to perform in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meet strict energy performance levels set by the EPA from 2010 to 2011.

The distribution center performed various energy efficiency measures, including upgrading its lighting from

metal halide fixtures to 5,200 fluorescent tube fixtures with motion sensors. The effort cut energy use and costs in half.

The facility also integrates energy management into monthly performance scorecards and monitors energy use.

Achieving landfill-free status makes good business sense. For example, since 2011, the Lansing distribution center generated:

- \$42,358 in revenue from recycling 325 tons of cardboard and 1,054 tons of wood pallets.
- \$27,947 in revenue from

recycling 59 tons of lead acid batteries.

"Our employees are key to these landfill-free and Energy Star milestones," said Bob Landis, Lansing CCA parts distribution center manager.

"Their efforts help us save energy, reduce waste and improve our efficiency every day."

In 2010, the facility also underwent the largest vinyl roof recycling project in North America, diverting about 120 tons of waste from local landfills.

The process enabled 475,000 square feet of roof membrane to be recycled.

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