

Tech Center News

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Want to Get Rid of Toxic Chemicals?

The Macomb County Health Department is conducting a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, April 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Armada Fairgrounds.

"This program offers residents an environmentally safe and responsible alternative to landfill disposal for toxic chemicals," said Health Department Director Bill Ridella.

Macomb County residents may drop off unwanted household chemicals, including: automotive products (gasoline, battery acid and fluids), garden products (pesticides, poisons, sprays and dusts) and household products (oven cleaners, pool chemicals, photography chemicals, fluorescent tubes, oil-based paint and solvents). Latex paint will not be accepted.

Unwanted medications from residents will also be accepted in nondescript containers such as a plastic bag. Only non-controlled substances will be accepted.

For additional information and directions to the collection location, contact the hazardous waste hotline 586-466-7923 or visit www.macombgov.org/publichealth.

Got News?

If you have solid business news for this paper, please contact us at News@TechCenterNews.com.

Businesses Gain Cost Savings Edge At Energy Event

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The closing speaker is Jim Saber, vice president of business development at NextEnergy. This is the fifth year that the Macomb County Chamber has presented the event.

Attendees will have opportunities to:

- Explore energy auditing and systems analysis
- Discover new products and technology that reduce energy costs and use
- Learn about available financing, incentives and rebates
- Gain practical advice from businesses who have successfully implemented energy conservation and sustainability programs
- Tour a Mobile Energy Lab exhibit outside of the IBEW-NECA facility, which offers a hands-on learning experience on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Registration and exhibits open at 8 a.m. The program starts at 8:30 a.m. and wraps up at 11:45 a.m., followed by a light lunch and networking.

Tickets for the half-day program are \$10. Register online at macombcountychamber.org. For exhibit space call Jeffrey Wasser at 586-493-7600.

Event sponsors are GM, Macomb Community College and the IBEW-NECA Electrical Industry Training Center.

GM Invests \$332 Million in Powertrain Production Facilities

Producing better vehicles for a demanding marketplace means spending money.

To that end, GM will invest nearly \$332 million in four manufacturing sites to produce more fuel-efficient engines and transmissions.

This, GM officials said, demonstrates GM's "commitment to deliver what customers want: technology-driven performance and fewer trips to the pump."

The investments – announced April 4 at GM plants in Flint, Bay City, Toledo, and Bedford, Ind. – will support production of a new Ecotec small gas engine, a new V6 engine, 8-speed transmission, and tooling for an existing 6-speed transmission.

GM also is increasing previously announced powertrain investment in plants in Romulus and Saginaw to \$646 million – an increase of \$46 million – to support production of the new V6 engine.

Since 2009, GM has announced nearly \$1.8 billion of investments for the six powertrain facilities.

"We are investing in technologies and manufacturing capabilities that produce high-quality, fuel-efficient vehicles and components for our customers," said Diana Tremblay, vice president of GM North American Manufacturing.

"Today's announcement demonstrates GM's commitment to growing the business and strengthening the plant communities where we

receive so much support."

Combined, the two investments will retain about 1,650 jobs at the six facilities.

"The selection of these plants and the opportunity for the United Auto Workers to build the next generation of engines and transmissions reflects the great efforts of our workforce," said UAW Vice President Joe Ashton, who directs the union's GM department.

"This investment goes a long way to ensuring GM remains a marketplace leader and our members can continue to support and share in the company's growth."

GM's newly announced \$331.8 million investment includes \$215 million in Flint Engine Operations for a new small Ecotec gasoline engine, which is part of a new family of engines that includes 3- and 4-cylinder variants with displacements ranging from 1.0 to 1.5 liters.

Details of what variants the plant will build will be announced later. The plant will also upgrade tooling for its current V6 engine.

GM is putting \$55.7 million in Toledo Transmission Operations for increased capacity and tooling to produce an all-new, advanced 8-speed automatic transmission and an existing 6-speed transmission. The Toledo-based 8-speed will be used in numerous GM vehicles by the end of 2016.

The company is spending \$31.7 million in Bay City Powertrain, including \$19.2 million to produce components for a new V6 engine and \$12.5 million to produce components for the small Ecotec gasoline engine.

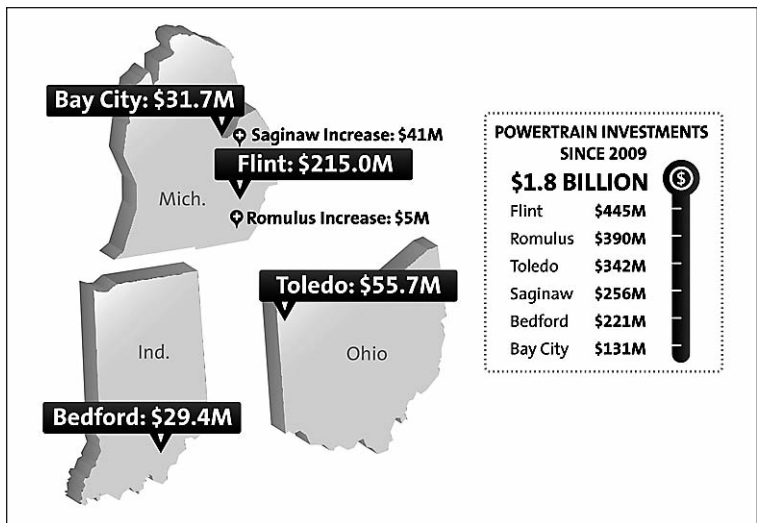
And \$29.4 million is being invested in Bedford Castings, including \$19 million to produce components for the small gas engine and \$10.4 million to produce components for the new 8-speed and existing 6-speed transmissions.

The additional \$46 million brings the total to \$646 million for the V6 project, including a \$41 million increase to \$256 mil-

lion for Saginaw Metal Castings Operations to produce castings for the new V6 engine.

GM also makes a \$5 million increase to \$390 million for Romulus Engine Operations to build the new V6 engines.

The new small Ecotec gasoline engine is part of a global engine family that could top 2 million engines a year by the end of the decade, based on production in Flint and other locations around the world. The new engines, say GM officials, will offer improved fuel economy, higher quality, better performance and reduced carbon dioxide emissions.



GM will invest \$331.8 million in facilities for new engines and transmissions as well as adding to previously announced plant improvements.

GDLS Improves Energy Efficiency, Earns Macomb Award

by Ross Raybin

General Dynamics Land Systems of Sterling Heights was recently recognized by Macomb County for their efforts to go green.

During the first-ever Macomb Business Awards, hosted by Macomb County Planning and Economic Development, GDLS received the Energy Efficiency Expert award.

"We were very pleased to be recognized by county leadership," said John Cox, facilities manager at GDLS Sterling Heights.

"Our goal is to become totally green."

According to Cox, an internal green team was formed roughly three years ago with the goal of reducing the facility's overall consumption.

"We've done a number of things to improve our energy efficiency," he said.

Some of those things include

retrofitting 8,000 light fixtures, installing motion and daylight sensors, and upgrading systems throughout the building.

According to Cox, when they first started making the improvements, they were at roughly 25 percent renewable power for the building, and today that number is 100 percent.

"It was a vision by upper management to address social, economic and environmental impact and sustainability," he said. "We're now powered by 100 percent renewable offsets."

In September 2011, the facility became LEED certified, which means the building has sustainable site development, water savings, is energy efficient and has indoor environmental quality.

"There are only 14 existing buildings in Michigan with LEED certifications," said Cox. "It's very difficult to achieve."

Aside from the environmentally friendly aspect of going green, it has also saved the company

money.

According to Cox, GDLS has been able to generate an annual cost savings of approximately \$1.4 million.

The GDLS Sterling Heights facility is home to roughly 18,000 employees and is about 480,000 square feet.

GDLS is a unit of General Dynamics Combat Systems group, which designs, develops, produces, supports and enhances tracked and wheeled military vehicles.

The heart of the Land Systems' military vehicle is the Abrams battle tank.

General Dynamics has locations all over the world; however, its headquarters is in Sterling Heights.

Referring to the energy award, Cox said, "It's not easy and it's not a one-time thing. This is something that's ongoing and the goal is to continuously improve."

According to a press release by the Macomb County Planning

and Economic Development Department, GDLS received the award for their "remarkable efforts" to reduce their energy consumption by approximately 20 percent through the use of renewable energy sources.

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