

GM Energy Cuts Benefit U.S., Earn Praise

General Motors is participating in a U.S. Department of Energy program to reduce energy costs, per unit of production, at 25 of its U.S. facilities.

The result is an anticipated 25 percent or greater combined reduction in energy use at the plants by 2018.

The Better Buildings, Better Plants program is a national initiative in which the DOE works with industry partners to promote greater energy efficiency in the U.S. industrial sector.

"We continue to prove the business case for better energy management," said Al Hildreth, General Motors Corporate Energy manager. "Spreading the word about these benefits and sharing best practices with like-minded organizations will go far in reducing our nation's energy consumption, and working with the DOE and EPA ENERGY STAR enhances this effort."

The program provides commercial and industrial building owners with assistance and proven solutions to enhance energy efficiency. It also encourages collaboration among companies to discuss lessons learned.

"General Motors' efforts are helping the nation benefit from energy efficiency. Together with the other partners in the Better Buildings, Better Plants program, GM's actions will save billions in energy costs, create new manufacturing jobs, strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness

and help protect the environment," said Kathleen Hogan, deputy assistant secretary for energy efficiency, U.S. Department of Energy.

GM and the United Auto Workers work together to achieve the energy-reduction targets. Employees at Fairfax (Kan.) Assembly identified cost savings totaling more than \$200,000 per year after attending a four-day compressed air training event conducted by the DOE.

"The UAW is proud to play a part in helping General Motors reduce its impact on the environment," said UAW Vice President Joe Ashton, who directs the union's GM department.

"By giving our members the proper energy management training, we can ensure that the facilities where they work will be up to speed on industry-best practices for cutting carbon emissions."

Two hundred and eighteen energy-savings opportunities have been identified, which GM has taken advantage of for more than \$7 million in savings.

This is one of two collaborations between GM and the U.S. DOE. GM recently became a founding partner of the DOE's Workplace Charging Challenge, pledging to help increase the number of employers providing workplace vehicle charging tenfold within five years. The automaker is at the forefront of workplace vehicle charging, with more than 230 charging stations

available to employees in the United States.

Brian Wilger, utility manager at GM's Detroit-Hamtramck plant, said that facility has the largest on-site solar array in Southeast Michigan. The plant is able to provide enough power to produce about 25 percent of the electricity used for general assembly, or 10 percent of the facility's overall fixed facility load when it's generating at maximum capacity.

Wilger also said that the plant is looking to maximize efficiency by using LED lights. Each year, the plant is given an energy and water target. This year, it's a 5 percent improvement, normalized for production. Energy scorecards are checked monthly to see if goals are being achieved.

Overall, Wilger said, the goal is to see a 5 percent reduction in energy, normalized for production volumes, every year.

Worldwide, GM is dedicated to energy efficiency and is working toward a goal to reduce energy intensity from its facilities 20 percent by 2020. The company is the No. 1 automotive user of solar power in the United States and received an EPA ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Sustained Excellence award for its energy management.

Recently, 54 GM plants met the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry, cutting energy intensity by 26 percent in less than three years.

Ford Offers System to Protect Police Officers

Ford has a better idea for its police vehicles.

A new technology available for Ford Police Interceptor will provide an additional measure of security for law enforcement officers by mitigating their risk of being snuck up on from the rear while working in their vehicles, especially at night.

"I can tell you from personal experience at night that officer security is a critical concern," said Randy Freiburger, Ford police and ambulance fleet supervisor. "Unfortunately, there are people with bad intentions who sneak up on police officers. This system builds upon the Ford Police Interceptor DNA that puts safety and security at the top of the list."

The new surveillance mode technology works by using existing Ford driver-assist technologies - a backup camera, cross-traffic alert and reverse park assist - to give police officers added situational awareness and a first line of defense from potential assailants, Freiburger said.

When an officer activates the system with the vehicle in Park, the backup camera, combined with sensors that detect blind

spots and parking obstacles, continually monitors the area to the rear of the vehicle. Surveillance mode can be turned off in situations such as curbside urban settings where pedestrians would constantly set off the alarm, Freiburger said.

The patent-pending idea is Freiburger's. He spent many hours riding along with police officers and saw firsthand the dangers officers face in the course of routine patrols and investigations.

Officers have to write reports, monitor an in-car computer or radar gun, and perform other tasks while sitting in their vehicle, Freiburger said. Surveillance mode gives them an extra set of eyes to help guard against threats - especially at night when visibility is compromised.

Ford collaborated with Intermotive Inc. of Auburn, Calif., which developed and will sell the surveillance mode system, along with several other innovative law enforcement products, Freiburger said.

The system can be installed at Crown, the facility near Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant, where lights and other accessories are

added, or at local upfitters by working directly with Intermotive.

Surveillance mode is available for the 2014 Ford Police Interceptor sedan and utility vehicle.

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