

'We Cut Energy, Emissions Each Year' – GM Executive VP Lee

General Motors' Orion Assembly plant is one of 63 facilities to meet a voluntary energy-reduction challenge set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, cutting its energy intensity by 67 percent in less than two years to meet the EPA's ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry.

This is the first year that the Orion plant has achieved this recognition for energy efficiency, said plant spokesman Kevin Nadrowski.

To meet the ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry, manufacturing facilities need to reduce energy used per unit of production by at least 10 percent within five years, Nadrowski said. Orion's reduction avoided 42,760 tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere – the equivalent of electricity used by 6,400 U.S. homes annually.

"Creativity and energy management go hand-in-hand at GM," said Tim Lee, executive vice president of Global Manufacturing. "We've been consistently cutting energy use and emissions each year. Environmental responsibility – and its corresponding business benefits – continues to be an everyday driver within our facilities."

GM's Orion Assembly plant avoided more than \$6.45 million in energy costs annually through its efforts, Nadrowski said. GM leads all companies worldwide in meeting the challenge, he said, noting that total company-wide savings in energy costs through the Challenge for Industry total \$162 million.

To achieve the Energy Star recognition, employees at Orion Assembly used energy-saving tactics such as converting old steam unit heaters to more efficient natural gas heaters, Nadrowski said.

This project eliminated the need for steam in the assembly building. Orion Assembly also completed a three-year project to upgrade their lighting from high-intensity discharge lighting to more efficient fluorescent lighting.

Employees utilize a time-schedule-controlled energy management system to shut off both



Solar Panels at Orion Assembly helped GM save on energy costs, meet EPA's ENERGY STAR Challenge.

building and production lighting, as well as building ventilation systems, Nadrowski said. Employees are engaged in energy management throughout the plant and account for their energy use and equipment shutdown schedules before leaving for the weekend or holidays.

"All of our Team Members play a role in our ability to have a positive environmental impact from conserving energy to recycling initiatives within the plant and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve," said Steve Brock, Orion Assembly plant manager. "In addition, we produce the Chevrolet Sonic that makes a positive environmental statement with models that deliver over 40 mpg for fuel economy."

In March of 2013, GM received an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year-Sustained Excellence award – the program's highest recognition for corporate energy management, Nadrowski said. Between 2005 and 2010, the automaker reduced energy use in its global facilities by 28 percent

and has since set a goal to reduce energy intensity globally 20 percent by 2020.

Nadrowski said Orion Assembly strives to further reduce its environmental footprint through additional efforts, such as:

- 2012 Renewable Energy – Utilizing 72,097 MWH's of renewable energy from a 350 KW solar array and a landfill gas-fired boiler for the powerhouse;
- Environmental education – More than 500 local students are mentored by GM environmental engineers every year to learn about community watershed quality through the plant's GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) program;
- Orion Assembly is a member of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Clean Corporate Citizen Program and has

been an annual recipient of the MDEQ Neighborhood Environmental Partner's Award since 2008.

Dow Automotive Earns Renault's Supplier Award

Renault named Dow Automotive a "Supplier of the Year" for Dow's work in sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Dow officials were presented with the award in Paris. The statement issued by Renault said that Dow deserved the recognition because of the work it puts into developing sustainable products.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this significant recognition from Renault for efforts that are also a top priority for Dow Automotive Systems," said Steve Henderson, president of Dow Automotive. "It shows how important CSR has become in business relations and that there is more to doing good business than simply providing products and expertise."

Dow supplies Renault with a variety of products and services, including adhesive solutions for glass bonding and safety applications.

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Thieves Taking Tires, Rims, Mirrors, License Plates

Tire and rim thefts are increasing sharply in Detroit, according to Help Eliminate Auto Thefts (H.E.A.T.) and the American Car Rental Association (ACRA).

H.E.A.T. is Michigan's statewide auto theft prevention program that coordinates citizen action with law enforcement agencies through a confidential toll-free tip line for reporting information on stolen vehicles, chop shops, and suspected auto theft activities including insurance fraud, identity theft and carjackings.

"Thieves are always looking for new ways to target Michigan drivers," said Terri Miller, executive director of H.E.A.T. "Drivers need to be aware of the growing trend of tires and rims being stolen from private car owners, auto dealers and rental cars alike."

While vehicle thefts in Michigan are in a five-year decline, the city of Detroit's Commercial Auto Theft unit has already handled approximately 114 reported rim and tire thefts during just the first six months of 2013. The sharp uptick in auto theft-related crime is not occurring anywhere else in the country at this time, according to the ACRA.

"Although the number of auto thefts in Michigan is declining, we are seeing evolving trends in unconventional auto theft-related crime occurring solely in the Metro Detroit area," said Bob Muhs, ACRA board member and chairman of the security committee.

"Most of the reported thefts include tires and rims, but thefts of VIN plates, mirrors and license plates also have been reported."

These thefts are also increasing as thieves can make a profit by selling them to crooked dealers and repair shops. Because not all wheel and tire shops keep an inventory book to identify sellers of the items, cases can be difficult to investigate.

"This has become a huge problem, and it is happening to vehicle owners across Metro Detroit, including the suburbs," said Sgt. James Vogler, manager of the Action Auto Theft Task Force for Grosse Pointe Park.

"These unconventional auto thefts have taken off because stealing rims and tires is an easy way for thieves to make a quick profit."

Because thieves target easy-to-steal tires and rims, H.E.A.T. recommends that drivers park in a garage whenever possible, a parking lot with an attendant, or in well-lit areas with pedestrian traffic.

It's important for citizens to report what they know about these crimes to police, and to H.E.A.T., since it's almost impossible to stop a thief who is determined to take the wheels from a vehicle.

H.E.A.T. encourages anyone with information on suspicious or criminal auto theft-related activity to report the tip to H.E.A.T. at 1-800-242-HEAT or www.1800242HEAT.com. All tips are confidential.

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