

GM Passes Muster on Climate Policies

On a two-part, number/letter scoring system, GM earned a 100/A-, ranking among the top 10 percent of companies reporting in the CDP Global 500 Climate Change Report 2013.

"Companies that score highly enough to be included in the Climate Disclosure Leadership Index are responding to the call for greater corporate climate accountability," said Paul Simpson, chief executive officer of CDP, formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project.

"They have demonstrated leading practices for the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions and energy use and transparency of their climate change strategy."

The annual CDP's Global 500 Climate Disclosure Leadership Index highlights companies listed on the FTSE Global Equity Index Series that display a strong approach to disclosing information on climate change.

High company scores indicate robust climate data and a good understanding of climate change-related issues affecting the company, said GM spokesperson Sharon Basel.

Scores are communicated to investors and other decision-makers to assess corporate preparedness for changing market demands and emissions regulation, Basel said.

"These carbon reduction efforts with our vehicles and manufacturing facilities are good for our customers, good for the planet and good for our bottom line," said Mike Robinson, GM vice president of Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs.

Worldwide, GM is dedicated to energy efficiency and is working toward a commitment to reduce energy and carbon intensity from its facilities 20 percent by 2020, Basel said.

The automaker 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, the organization's highest level of recognition for corporate energy management.

GM also was the first automaker and industrial manufacturer to sign the Climate Declaration, a statement from Ceres and its Business for Innovative Climate & Energy Policy coalition, Basel said.

Beyond building fuel-efficient vehicles, GM is investing up to \$40 million in the Chevrolet Carbon Reduction Initiative, in which the brand helps financially in community-based carbon-reduction projects throughout the United States. The project has a goal of reducing up to 8 million metric tons of CO2 emissions, Basel said.

For more information on GM's environmental commitment, visit its sustainability report and environmental blog.

Ford Fund Awards \$225K to Local Colleges

The Ford Motor Company Fund awarded \$225,000 in Ford College Community Challenge grants to nine colleges and universities in support of the growing trend of service learning on college campuses.

The Ford College Community Challenge (Ford C3) is a national challenge grant competition that recognizes colleges and universities that utilize a school's resources to address an urgent community need related to the grant's theme: Building Sustainable Communities. Unlike many college grant programs, Ford C3 requires colleges to create proposals that have significant student input, involvement and leadership from beginning to end.

In its press release, Ford called Campus Compact the only national higher education association dedicated to campus-based civic engagement, and that it partnered with Ford Fund on this year's grant program.

The organization hosted a recent conference for academic leaders and students on past Ford C3 case studies. About 62

percent of its 1,200 member campuses require service learning as part of the core curriculum, up from 51 percent in 2010.

"The Ford C3 winners, many of which are at Campus Compact member schools, are impressive examples of community engagement and service learning," said Maureen Curley, president of Campus Compact. "We are proud to be working with the Ford Fund, which has shown tremendous leadership in supporting innovative campus community partnerships."

The 2013 Ford C3 winners in Michigan are:

- College for Creative Studies to support student design and pilots of creative and easily replicable solutions for common challenges associated with urban farming in Detroit;

- Michigan State University for students in the College of Engineering to develop and test a teaching module, software libraries and cloud support to enable high school students in the Lansing area to create Java programs that gather information

about local energy usage;

- Wayne State University to expand urban farming, nutrition education, fresh produce sales to underserved groups and support for local growers in the Detroit area;

- University of Michigan for designing and installing a net-zero water consumption system for the nation's oldest net-zero house, a demonstration project in Ann Arbor.

Other recipients include Arizona State University, Brown University, Essex County College in New Jersey, University of Texas at Arlington, and Virginia Commonwealth University and University of Richmond (joint award).

"The Ford College Community Challenge is designed to leverage the talents and creativity of students to drive meaningful change in their communities," said Mike Schmidt, director of education programs, Ford Motor Company Fund. "We applaud these universities and colleges that are making student-led, community engagement a priority."

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