

Neighborhood Environmental Partners 2010-2011 Award Summaries

Detroit Edison – River Rouge Power Plant

1. The River Rouge Power Plant participates in an annual neighborhood beautification project in partnership with the City of River Rouge. The “Rouge Clean-Up Days” includes participants from local businesses, city officials, River Rouge Power Plant volunteers, City of River Rouge employees, and citizens and high school students all worked together to clean debris from Belanger Park Drive and the entrance to Belanger Park.
2. The River Rouge Power Plant employees organized and participated in Earth Day 2010 activities by hosting tours of the power plant. Tours included “top to bottom” tours of the plant. Local businesses and citizens also toured the wildlife habitat areas on the plant grounds. Plant employee volunteers also participated in a Detroit River Clean-up project on Earth Day.
3. The River Rouge Power Plant is a no-mow facility. All green areas on the property have been transformed into native landscaping and warm season grasses. The program eliminates the need for mowing. The program is called “Grow It Don’t Mow It”.
4. The River Rouge Power Plant hosted several educational tours in 2010. On April 23, 2010, the plant hosted 70 students and teachers from Our Lady of Good Counsel School of Plymouth Michigan. The students were on site for four hours and learned about the plant’s history, environmental policy, and plant operations. In July (2010), the plant hosted Wayne State University providing a tour for the Alternative Energy Technology class. The class discussed renewable sources of energy and the future outlook for the energy industry.
5. The River Rouge Power Plant employees planned and installed a rain garden. The rain garden habitat is composed of Michigan native plant species indigenous to the Rouge River watershed. The rain garden will be showcased during tours hosted by the plant.
6. The River Rouge Power Plant is currently working on an educational tool that will be used to teach local school children about Michigan native plants. At the corner of Belanger Park Drive, native Michigan plants were installed with signage so students can readily identify the plants while touring the plant.
7. The River Rouge Power Plant has partnered with the Ford, Chrysler, General Motors, and the Auto Alliance to support a local initiative to achieve zero discharge of recovered paint solids (RPS) generated in the automotive manufacturing process. The RPS is blended with coal at the plant and combusted to generate energy. Detroit Edison is able to utilize over 1000 tons of RPS per year for energy recovery instead of disposal of it at a solid waste facility. Detroit Edison does not receive any financial reward associated with its partnership with auto manufactures. The partnership is strictly an effort to drive zero solid waste disposal of RPS in the community.

Ford Motor Company

(Livonia Transmission Plant, Automatic Transmission New Product Center, Van Dyke Plant Applied)

1. Ford partnered with DTE energy to implement an Earth Day and Bring Your Child to Work Day activities at its Livonia Transmission and Automatic Transmission New Product Center plants. Compact Florescent Bulbs were given away and energy experts from DTE were on hand to answer questions. All the participants were asked to sign an Energy Star pledge to save energy and help fight global warming.
2. Ford also distributed a Standardized Awareness/Training/Communication Tool factsheet to employees and Earth Day participants that listed simple recycling conversions like how many trees it takes to produce one ton of paper. The factsheet was developed to

emphasize the importance of recycling. In 2010, the Ford Livonia Transmission Plant and Ford Automatic Transmission New Product Center recycled 35 tons of cardboard, 3 tons of paper and 108 tons of wood. Additionally the Ford Livonia Transmission Plant and Ford Automatic Transmission New Product Center from 2009 to 2010, decreased waste to landfill by 11.2 percent per transmission, decreased water use by 6.8 percent per transmission, decreased hydrocarbon use by 18.6 percent per transmission.

3. Ford hosted a student Explorers "Day in the Life" visit at its Ford Livonia Transmission Plant. The visit was designed to show the students the opportunities available for careers in manufacturing. Students toured the plant and listened to presentations by plant personnel in the areas of safety, quality, and environmental. The environmental discussion included a description of the educational requirements as well as the roles and responsibilities of the plant environmental engineer.
4. Ford participated with the East Michigan Chapter of the Air and Waste Association in the Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit (SEFMD). Ford volunteers' judged science projects for SEFMD. The SEFMD provides students from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties an opportunity to compete, develop, and exhibit science fair projects.
5. Ford held a Household Electronics Collections in 2010 and 2011 at its Van Dyke Plant. In 2010, over 1100 pounds of electronic equipment was collected to be recycled. In 2011, over 1180 pounds of electronic equipment was collected to be recycled.

Holland Board of Public Works

1. The Holland Board of Public Works participated in a residential pharmaceutical collection program with Skips Pharmacy, the Ottawa County Sherriff's Department, Ottawa County Health Department, Wyoming Water Treatment Plant, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The goal of the project was to keep unused/expired drugs out of the hands of children, and out of area lakes and streams and educate the public not to flush unwanted pharmaceuticals. The September 25, 2010, event successfully collected over 650 pounds of pharmaceutical waste.
2. Over 300 used street light glass "shells" were donated to the Oxbow Summer Art School and the Saugatuck-Douglas Area Business Association in spring 2011 to use in art projects and as street luminaries for winter holiday events. The "shells" were considered window glass, and so could not be recycled their other glass waste stream. The only other option would have been to landfill the shells.
3. Members of the Holland Board of Public Works Environmental Committee participated in the City of Holland's Project Pride event for the years 2008 and 2009. Holland Board of Public Works volunteers helped unload the TV's and computer monitors turned in for recycling by Valley City Environmental.
4. The Holland Board of Public Works service center in 2010 began collecting used CFL bulbs from the community. The Holland Board of Public Works has a mobile unit from Valley City Environmental process collected bulbs periodically along with its own used bulbs.
5. The Holland Board of Public Works has partnered with Zeeland, Grand Haven, and Padnos to collect and recycle room air conditioners and de-humidors at a one day event tentatively scheduled for Oct 2011. Padnos will process the Freon, and scrap the metal; the utilities will provide volunteers and possibly incentives (rebates) for turning in the used appliances. Educational pamphlets will also be distributed about Energy Star compliant appliances.

Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant

1. Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant employees on May 22, 2010, partnered with 22 students from the Bedford High School National Honor Society and Robotics Team to collect and remove approximately 4 cubic yards of trash from the Lake Erie shoreline.

2. Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant hosted its 11th annual shoreline clean-up program. On September 25, 2010, J.R. Whiting Plant employees partnered with 25 Girl Scouts, junior high and high school National Honor Society students to cleanup 5 cubic yards of trash in a 2 mile stretch of beach adjacent to the plant.
3. Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant volunteers partnered with Dundee High School Future Farmers of America students to help Dundee Elementary 1st graders build bird houses and bat boxes. The houses and boxes were placed in several locations on the plant property including a newly established wildflower meadow near the plant.
4. Consumers Energy - J.R. Whiting Plant entered an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to add the 49 acre 'Lady of the Lake' area to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. In 2008, J.R. Whiting, along with the USFWS drafted a management objective with regard to the ecological restoration of the Lady of the Lake Great Lakes Coastal Wetland.
5. The Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant partnered with the Lotus Garden Club of Monroe to propagate, transplant, and protect the endangered American Lotus; which were discovered on the facility property. The Lotus Garden Club is the only group authorized by the state of Michigan to harvest Lotus seeds. The American Lotus was put on the endangered species list after it was nearly decimated by sewage discharges and industrial pollution. Since being added to the list, the Lotus has made a dramatic comeback.

Dow Corning Midland Site

1. Dow Corning formed a partnership with the Arnold Center of Midland to manage and recycle paper waste at its facility. The Arnold Center is a non-profit organization that assists physically and mentally challenged members of the community by providing them with job skills and on the job training. Since the program began, 5 million pounds of paper has been recycled and jobs have been created for 5 people with varying needs. Funds generated by the recycling program go to support the Arnold Center.
2. Dow Corning also has a partnership with an area recycling organization called Volunteers for Recycling. The facility donates cardboard, Styrofoam, plastic bags, and bottles to the group to help fund recycling projects in the community.
3. Dow Corning participates with the Salvation Army and Meijer Adopt-A-Family programs. The site also donates to the Saginaw Rescue Mission, the Midland\Gladwin Red Cross, Goodwill Replenishment Fund, and the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Dow Corning also presented scholarships to various area high school seniors.
4. Dow Corning sponsors and participates in ongoing training with local emergency responders. This project includes hands-on training exercised with local fire, police, and emergency responders at its facility. The cooperative training program has been in operation for many years. The facility also offers hazardous materials training for area colleges, the local fire department, and the Michigan State Police. The facility additionally presented hazardous materials training at the Michigan Safety Conference in Lansing. The program has improved communication and coordination with the local community officials.

General Motors LLC

(Detroit Hamtramck Assembly, Flint Metal Center, Orion Assembly, Powertrain Romulus Engine Operations, Lansing Delta Township (LDT) and Regional Stamping, Warren Transmission Plant Applied)

1. General Motors (GM) and Global River Environmental Education Network (Project Green) partnered with students across the state to perform water quality testing each spring. The results of the testing are then provide to the watershed groups for evaluation. The purpose for the program is to engage young people in the protection of local water resource and create awareness of GM's commitment to the local environment.

2. Each year GM participates in Earth Day celebrations at different plant locations across the state. The GM volunteers perform environmental demonstrations and discuss environmental stewardship with students.
3. Several GM Plants host Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days in conjunction with the local county health department. The collections are open to GM employees and the public. Each year thousands of pounds of HHW are collected.
4. GM has partnered with Boy Scout Troops and school kids to create bat houses and waterfowl/duck boxes. The projects have allowed the GM facilities to mentor area students and non profit groups to make a positive environmental impact. Many GM plant sites are certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council.
5. GM has partnered with non profit organizations and community groups to do habitat restoration projects at many of its plant locations.
6. GM participates in the Educational Technology and Conservation Exchange Program where employees collect used printer cartridges for recycling. Points are assigned for each printer cartridge donated to the Educational Technology and Conservation Exchange Program. Some GM plants donated its points to area schools to obtain equipment and educational materials.

Pilgrim Manor Retirement Community-Grand Rapids

1. Pilgrim Manor Retirement Community partnered with Spurt Industries to implement a composting program at the facility. The program started with separating organic material in the kitchen and has migrated to several areas throughout the facility. Compost receptacles are located in resident laundry rooms, employee break room and in the dining. The organic waste is composted and packaged as soil. The program is an opportunity to encourage food waste awareness among residence and staff, diverting waste that use to be sent to the landfill and converting it to a viable renewable resource.
2. Pilgrim Manor practices environmental pharmaceutical waste disposal destroying all controlled substances on site. Other medications eligible for reimbursement or disposal are sent back to the facilities partnering pharmacy.
3. Pilgrim Manor installed 17,100 square feet of porous parking lot onsite which is designed to retain 34,200 gallons of rainwater. A rain garden was also installed onsite to retain storm water runoff at the facility.
4. Pilgrim Manor partnered with Comprenew Environmental to recycle all of the electronic waste generated at the facility. Over 1444 pounds of e-waste was collected from residences, resident's families, and staff at the facility. Though these efforts, Pilgrim Manor hopes to increase awareness and encourage responsible sustainable living at the facility.
5. Pilgrim Manor has established a sustainability department and green team at the facility to promote sustainable business practices with residents and staff. Pilgrim Manor actively promotes sustainable recycling, composting, and storm water practices.

Herman Miller, Inc. – Zeeland

1. Herman Miller partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build a LEED Gold rated home in Grand Haven. Herman Miller volunteers helped build the home and several other homes over the past several years.
2. Herman Miller organized a book drive in five locations in the west Michigan area. The books will go to a non profit organization that will redistribute and repurpose the books.
3. Herman Miller employees participate in Adopt-A-Highway project collecting and disposing of roadside litter in west Michigan.
4. Herman Miller is an active member of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum. Participating in a number of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum community events.

5. Herman Miller was able to reduce its environmental foot print by 79 percent, air emissions by 84 percent, and hazardous waste by 90 percent since 1994.

United States Army Garrison - Detroit Arsenal – Environmental and Sustainability Division

1. The United States Army Garrison – Detroit Arsenal (Army) sponsored an Earth Day event at the arsenal. Outside vendors were invited to participate in the event. Numerous businesses and local and state agencies participated in the day long event. The events have built community awareness of the Army Arsenal and its environmental activities and programs.
2. The Detroit Arsenal instituted an eye glass and hearing aid collection program with the Lions Club. This program started in 2005; to date 2,165 pairs of glasses and 20 hearing aids have been collected and donated.
3. The Detroit Arsenal collects personal cell phones. The money generated from this program is donated to the Army Morale Welfare Recreation and Civilian Welfare Fund. The program was started in 2005 and to date 2400 cellular telephones, 108 Blackberry's, and 50 beepers have been collected and recycled.
4. The Detroit Arsenal also instituted a personal computer collection program. The Arsenal collected 19.2 tons of electronic waste to date. The arsenal collected 7 tons of electronic waste alone in 2010.
5. The Detroit Arsenal promotes the use of van pooling. Over 734 arsenal personnel participate in the program. The arsenal added over 100 new participants in 2010 to the van pooling program.
6. The Detroit Arsenal volunteers participate in Habitat for Humanity event every year.
7. The Detroit Arsenal donated binders, phones, and office equipment to area non-profit organizations. Warren Parks and Recreation received over \$2000 in pool supplies and the Detroit School for Creative Arts received 400 pounds of modeling clay.