

GM Engineers Nationwide Participate In Student Water Quality Program

DETROIT – Lisa Parks may not be a senior environmental engineer at General Motors today if not for an afternoon in high school she spent analyzing water quality in the Grand River near her hometown of Grand Ledge, Mich.

The river stream monitoring was part of GM GREEN, which stands for Global Rivers Environmental Education Network, a program she said sparked her interest in science. GM GREEN is designed to sharpen problem-solving skills, improve knowledge of science and the environment, and encourage community involvement.

GM is now in its 23rd year of supporting the program, a partnership with the nonprofit organization Earth Force to help youth understand how their actions impact local watersheds. The hands-on learning experience continues to gain traction, and this year marks the first time every GM manufacturing site in the United States will mentor students in their local community on water quality.

Last year, GM mentors waded into streams with 9,312 students from nearly 100 schools. GM employees from 41 facilities volunteered in 2011 to help students within



Jim Ecklund, a GM GREEN mentor in Lansing, Mich., helps students evaluate water samples. General Motors is now in its 23rd year of supporting the program, a partnership with the nonprofit organization Earth Force to help youth understand how their actions impact local watersheds.

their communities analyze water monitoring data, identify a problem and develop a project to solve it.

“We’re dedicated to resource preservation at our facilities and that commitment often extends into the local community,” said Teri Kline, GM’s manager of Environmental, Facility & Materials Policy and long-time GM GREEN program mentor.

“Leading companies not only strive to reduce their environmental impact, but teach others to do the same. We supported 379 classrooms in

the past year alone, helping mentor the next generation of leaders and engineers.”

By the third decade of supporting GM GREEN, thousands of GM employees have participated as mentors. According to Earth Force surveys:

- 93 percent of GM employees believed the experience was personally fulfilling.
- 87 percent of educators said GM GREEN increased their students’ interest in science;
- Six out of 10 students want to continue working on



Tim Rienks, a GM GREEN mentor in Bedford, Ind., explains dissolved oxygen saturation to students. General Motors is now in its 23rd year of supporting the program, a partnership with the nonprofit organization Earth Force to help youth understand how their actions impact local watersheds.

issues addressed by their project.

“The GM GREEN program gives young people an opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-life scenarios in their community,” said Alyssa Hawkins, vice president of programs at Earth Force.

“With the support of GM mentors, young people develop the leadership and civic skills necessary to affect change in their community, now and in the future.”

GM GREEN’s water monitoring activities for the spring season began Feb. 28 with students from South Grand Prairie High School in Grand

Prairie, Texas.

“GM GREEN volunteers have shown my students that there are not only careers available in environmental fields, but that science is real life and not just something people talk about in school,” said Yolanda Hover, sixth and seventh grade science teacher at Jackson Middle School in Grand Prairie, Texas.

For more information on GM’s environmental commitment, visit the Beyond Now blog and the GM environment website. Mari Kay Scott, executive director of General Motors Real Estate and Facilities, also participates in this program in Orion Twp., Mich.

GM’s Barra Gives Keynote During Inforum RenCen Lunch

DETROIT – Mary Barra knows the pulse of the car business. In fact, as the leader of General Motors’ global product development team, it’s her job to get that pulse racing.

She leads the design and engineering of GM vehicles worldwide – with the goal of bringing those new cars, trucks and crossovers to market in record time and with the most compelling designs and highest quality possible.

As Inforum’s keynote speaker on March 14 at the Detroit Marriott at GM’s Renaissance Center headquarters, Barra will reflect back on her first year at the helm of GM’s product development team, discuss the pipeline of new GM products, and offer some lessons learned along the way of her accomplished GM career.

Inforum, founded back in 1962, was originally known as the Women’s Economic Club and this year the entity celebrates its 50th anniversary.

“This is a year of transformation as Inforum celebrates its history over five decades and sets the stage for the next 50 years,” said Terry Barclay, president and CEO of Inforum and the Inforum Center for Leadership.

“How fortunate we are to launch Inforum’s year-long (anniversary) celebration with an exceptional leader and role model like Mary Barra. As the highest ranking woman in the auto industry – at the world’s largest automaker – she is helping shape GM’s future for years to come.”

Along with her GM responsibilities and outside board and charitable activities, Barra serves on the board of Inforum Center for Leadership, the aforementioned education and research arm of Inforum.

“I’m very honored to be associated with Inforum and to help kick off their 50th anniversary activities,” Barra said. “I look forward to sharing some product and business insights about today’s GM at this prestigious forum.”

Barra’s early experience and training led to a wide-ranging career at General Motors that included leadership roles in varied critical part’s of GM’s otherwise vast automotive operations.

Barra was named senior vice president, Global Product Quality Development, effective Feb. 1, 2011, responsible for the design, engineering, program management and quality of vehicles for GM’s operations around the world. She is a member of the Executive Committee and reports to CEO Dan Akerson.

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EPA Salutes General Motors for Its ‘Energy Star’ Auto Plant Conservation

DETROIT – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named General Motors its 2012 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year in the motor vehicle category, citing its commitment to energy efficiency and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

GM’s U.S. energy-management team monitors 2.5 million pieces of energy data per minute in a dashboard system that identifies savings opportunities to increase efficiency of manufacturing operations.

“Our energy experts engage employees across our organi-

zation in reducing emissions and increasing efficiency,” said Mike Robinson, GM’s vice president of Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs. “This relentless pursuit helps us improve our environmental footprint and strengthen our business.”

GM demonstrated progress in several areas last year:

- Energy management dashboard system led to company savings of more than \$3 million;
- Dedicated \$12 million for implementation of energy cost-savings projects. The investment paid for itself in less than one year;
- Generated \$2 million in additional savings from powering four facilities with landfill gas, a renewable energy source.
- Avoided putting 131,400 metric tons of CO2 emissions into the atmosphere. This is equivalent to avoiding electric use in 16,400 homes, or planting 3.4 million trees that grow for 10 years.

Overall, GM saved more than \$15 million in energy costs.

“General Motors and all our ENERGY STAR award winners are improving the energy efficiency of the places where we work, play and learn, which is good for our climate, the health of our economy, and

our future,” said EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

GM’s commitment to energy efficiency is ongoing. Between 2005 and 2010, the company reduced energy use in global facilities by 30 percent, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 3.5 million metric tons.

In 2011, 30 GM plants met the EPA’s Challenge for Industry, cutting energy intensity by an average of 25 percent at plants in North America over 3 years – the equivalent of emissions from powering 97,000 U.S. homes.

The efforts avoided \$50 million in energy costs. Lansing Delta Township Assembly, which assembles the Buick Enclave, GMC Acadia and Chevrolet Traverse, also became the company’s first plant in the U.S. to receive an ENERGY STAR certification, meeting strict energy performance levels set by the EPA.

The company also started production of the Chevrolet Sonic and Buick Verano using an upgraded energy-efficient paint shop that reduces energy intensity 50 percent by eliminating steam use and the need for a primer oven to begin with.

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

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