

# Greendale Screw Moves to South Warren

by Gerald Scott  
News Dept.

Amusingly, about the only auto part that Greendale Screw machines that churn out various parts, hence the name. In fact, during World War II, the screw machines that Greendale now uses once cranked out millions of bullets for the U.S. Army.

Today, those same machines make small auto parts

such as vent plugs and alignment pins for the greater auto industry. Those screw machines make 300,000 units per week for Greendale.

"We're 100 percent automotive," declared Greendale President B.J. Damman, who offered a plant tour of their facility in south Warren the other day.

"We're either Tier I or Tier II to General Motors, American Axle, the GMT 800s, like the Suburbans and Silverados, we're on stuff like that.

"We make a lot of parts for American Axle so we know which axle we're on, but not necessarily which vehicle. It could be three or four different model numbers."

Greendale recently moved from its original Detroit location to south Warren – its plant is on Hupp street, an old automotive name, and nearby streets speak of Motor City auto to history such as Packard, Dodge, Marmon and the like, all south of 9 Mile Road.

Greendale employs about 20 people and occupies a 19,000-square-foot shop.

"We originated in Detroit for over 60 years and just moved here on the first of the year, we moved from 7 Mile and I-75 . . . we had a great opportunity, we were in a much smaller building, 11,000 square feet and this one's 19,000.

"We added a couple more machines to our capacity.

"We hire Acme machine operators: we have 36 multi-spindle Acme screw machines. We don't make screws at all. They're called screw machines because we put in 18-20-foot lengths of bar into the machine, and it's screwing the whole time that it goes in and it forms the part.

"We actually make fasteners, engine fittings, door hinge parts, axle parts . . . we're having a heck of a 2011, we're up 35 percent from last year.

"Our biggest customer is GM Powertrain, American Axle would be second."

Cadillac, Nexteer, and Leggett & Platt are also customers of Greendale.

Greendale specializes in



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

**Greendale Screw Products President B.J. Damman points out his firm's current lineup of small auto parts made for customers like GM Powertrain and American Axle – fasteners, rollers, ball studs.**

those medium to high-volume small automotive screw machine parts: spacers, fasteners, rollers, ball studs, fittings, connectors and plugs.

Oh, and if that Damman name sounds familiar, yes, he's part of the famous Damman Hardware chain store family from days gone by.

"My father-in-law bought the company in 1995, he'd been CPA for the company for 40 years. He wanted to sell out, his kids didn't want the business, so he bought it and asked me to come run it for him, it's family-owned by my wife's family," Damman said.

Of the new factory they're occupying in Warren – the facility was previously used by a Textron auto unit – Damman is pleased with Greendale's fu-

ture prospects.

Back in 2008-09, they survived the crash because they had no debt and shrunk down to just four employees including Damman himself, before ramping up and moving forward. "It was tough, it was scary," he recalled.

"(But now) we have more square footage to spread out for added business, it helps our efficiency because we're not so cramped – we were right on top of each other before. We were in two separate buildings . . . being under one roof has really helped the process flow of the parts," Damman said.

"We do around 300,000 pieces a week."

Or, roughly about 15.6 million unit parts per year, but, as noted – no actual screws.

## GM Sponsors 'All Things Green' Energy Exposition

by Gerald Scott  
News Dept.

Some 42 years ago when Earth Day first emerged from the street protest era of the early 1970s, it was established to remind society, corporations and people about their mutual environmental and green obligations, if you will.

Today, over four decades later, corporations such as General Motors are the leading sponsors of local Earth Day events such as the 4th annual "All Things Green" expo, which is organized by the Macomb Chamber and includes a variety of corporate participants ranging from DTE Energy to the Sierra Club to the IEEE SE Michigan Power & Energy Chapter.

The event was held at the I.B.E.W. (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) union hall on 11 Mile east of Dequindre in Warren, where GM had its latest EV (Chevrolet Volt) and hybrid-Eco vehicles such as the Cruze Eco and Malibu Eco available for participants to take on test drives. Lee Hachigian, director, General Motors Real Estate and Facilities, explained how and why GM came to embrace All Things Green.

"GM is proud to be a Gold sponsor of this year's All



**GM keynote speakers at the All Things Green expo included Barry Croteau, left, and Brian Becker, both of GM Real Estate & Facilities Group. Each manager spoke about the energy cost savings GM is realizing in all of its renovation and new-building projects.**

Things Green conference," he said. "The reason we are a sponsor is because it's consistent with our culture of environmental responsibility.

"This coming Sunday (April 22), we'll be celebrating the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day. For all of us, it's time for us to reflect and is an opportunity to recognize our responsibilities for protecting the environment.

"At General Motors, we're committed to reducing the environmental impact of our vehicles and our facilities. Over

the course of everyday work, men and women in General Motors focus on areas where we can make a difference – like more fuel-efficient vehicles, using less energy in our manufacturing plants to produce those vehicles, conserving natural resources by reducing weight and recycling every piece of waste that's generated."

The expo gave visitors the opportunity to study and examine how to reduce energy use, such as a talk from officials from the city of Wyandotte, which is converting the

entire city to geothermal heating.

Other exhibitors, such as DTE Energy and Greening of Detroit, offered practical advice on how to make one's home more energy-friendly.

Added GM's Hachigian, "One thing we do at General Motors that I highly recommend is to set goals and targets."

Other GM speakers, including Barry Croteau and Brian Becker, also from GM Real Estate and Facilities, discussed how new construction projects, as well as renovations to older factories such as GM Hamtramck, are resulting in measurable energy savings for GM because they're using green-friendly materials and more efficient lighting.

Also, Mike McGarry, GM's Alternative Energy Fleet Sales Manager based at the RenCen in Detroit, was at the conference with his team, all describing gains made in sales to fleet customers who use compressed natural gas (CNG) or other alternative fuels that are priced below conventional gasoline. Remember, all of this corporate green activity had its spark in the original Earth Day, so we can perhaps be reminded that Sunday, April 22, is Earth Day's birthday, in a manner of speaking.

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