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# GM's RenCen Manages Waste, Helps Build Greener Detroit

The General Motors Renaissance Center - the six-tower office complex that dominates Detoit's skyline and has its own ZIP code – now recycles, reuses or converts all its daily waste to

By diverting 5 million pounds of trash – or 200,000 full garbage bags - annually, RenCen has become landfill-free.

The drive to make the Renaissance Center, home of GM's Glob-Headquarters, landfill-free took more than two years, said GM spokesperson Sharon Basel.

The process included coordination with GM employees, recycling partners, business tenants and their employees, the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center and property management company CBRE.

"This is a significant achievement considering all the waste from workers, shoppers, diners and hotel guests - ranging from half-eaten hamburgers to used mattresses – that will not end up in a landfill," said Mike Robinson, GM vice president of Sustainability and Global Regulatory Affairs.

"By working together, we reduce our footprint while helping build a greener economy and a greener Detroit."

The Renaissance Center is the most complex among GM's 110 landfill-free sites to reach the milestone, Basel said. It's the automaker's only facility open to the public. Covering 5.5 million square feet, the building houses the Western Hemisphere's tallest all-hotel skyscraper, 11 other businesses, 20 restaurants and 27 retailers. It accommodates 12,000 office workers and 3,000 visitors daily.

The journey toward landfillfree began with a dumpster dive,

searching through trash to identify reuse and recycling opportunities, Basel said. Combining that insight with the building's historical waste data. GM teamed with all the business tenants, environmental staffs and CBRE to engage people in increasing paper, plastic, and battery recycling.

Educating how and where to recycle, as well as making it convenient to do so, changed behav-

A number of partners make landfill-free possible. GM worked closely with Waste Management, an international leader in recycling, to coordinate its needs with partners around the region to meet the goal, Basel said. Royal Oak Recycling bales and ships paper to mills across the country where it is turned into items like cereal boxes and tissue paper.

A Detroit nonprofit receives all returnable bottles and cans as a donation for youth outreach programs. Waste Management's Detroit Recycling Center recycles cardboard and plastic, and Veolia Environmental Services ensures batteries are properly recy-

GM's abundance of recyclable waste contributed to the economic growth of a new business called Hamtramck Recycling, Basel said. The company sorts the Renaissance Center's mixed packaging material and oddshaped and bulky items. The company's bulk shredder helps GM and other companies in Southeast Michigan manage their waste streams and increase recycling.

The Renaissance Center now recycles 49 percent of its total waste, an improvement of 127 percent since the drive to landfill-free began in 2011, Basel said.



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