



The Detroit Thermal

VOICE

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## Steam will be used to heat and cool huge auto plant

### New energy project links Detroit Renewable Power and GM's Detroit-Hamtramck Plant



GM's Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant, home to the VOLT, will soon be heated and cooled by steam from Detroit Renewable Power.

General Motors and Detroit Renewable Energy (DRE) have announced a renewable energy project that will provide steam produced from solid municipal waste, long an important factor in Detroit Thermal's energy equation, to heat and cool portions of the huge General Motors Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant.

This will help make the Detroit-Hamtramck plant the top GM facility in the world by percentage of renewable energy used. The steam will be produced at Detroit Renewable Power and piped directly to the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant. Work on installing more than 8,000 feet of pipe began in November, and the project should be on line in the spring of 2014.

Detroit Renewable Power can process more than a million tons of municipal waste annually. The waste thus becomes a useful resource that produces steam, electricity and recyclable metals. Both

Detroit Thermal and Detroit Renewable Power are part of the DRE family of companies.

The Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant has been recognized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for its support of environment-focused community collaboration. The project with DRE strengthens the plant's environmental profile.

"We have 107 landfill-free facilities across the globe that recycle or reuse their waste, with some of it turned into energy," said Rob Threlkeld, GM's global manager of renewable energy. "It made sense to explore this option with DRE at Detroit-Hamtramck, given the quality of their work in helping us manage our energy use at some of our other GM plants."

GM's experience with Hamtramck Energy Services, another DRE company, helped pave the way for the new project. Hamtramck Energy Services (see story on page 4) helps customers, including

GM, manage powerhouse, wastewater treatment and other energy facilities.

"We have a long history of working with GM in providing energy to its assembly plants," said Steven White, DRE chairman and chief executive officer. "To incorporate a sustainable and renewable energy source into the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant makes a significant addition to the value chain."

Detroit Thermal has been using steam produced from solid municipal waste at Detroit Renewable Power for many years and welcomes the addition of the GM plant to the system.

"Detroit Thermal customers won't be affected by the new project," said Rick Pucak, Detroit Thermal president. "They will get the same reliable, high-quality service they are used to. But they gain in the long run because the project strengthens the DRE family, including Detroit Thermal, as it helps to build the city's energy infrastructure." ●

## New financing to focus on infrastructure

Detroit Renewable Energy LLC (DRE) has secured \$55 million in long-term financing to support investment in the energy infrastructure of Greater Detroit. The financing consists of tax-exempt Limited Obligation Revenue Bonds issued by the Michigan Strategic Fund.

DRE is the consortium of energy generation and distribution companies,

including Detroit Thermal, formed in 2010 to provide Detroit with safe, reliable and cost-effective energy generation and distribution as well as waste disposal.

"This financing milestone brings substantial new resources to the long-term energy security, environmental health and economic sustainability of Greater Detroit," said DRE Chairman Steven White. ●



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## Theory and practice overlap at Cultural Center landmark

### Science Center explores technology, and steam energy drives the lesson home

Technology is an integral aspect of the mission of the Michigan Science Center, which is dedicated to “inspiring children and their families to discover, explore and appreciate science, technology and math.”

It’s also a day-to-day fact of life, since the Science Center uses a tried-and-true technology — Detroit Thermal district energy — to maintain its focus on its operational needs without diverting resources to maintain onsite heating systems.

The Detroit Science Center closed in 2011 and reopened as the Michigan Science Center on Dec. 26, 2012. The center recently extended its relationship with Detroit Thermal by entering into a three-year contract for district steam.

“This partnership will allow the Science Center to become more efficient in its operations by employing clean, safe steam energy from renewable resources,” said Jim Issner, the Science Center’s interim executive director [Tonya Matthews, formerly vice president of museums at Cincinnati Museum Center, recently replaced Issner as executive director of the Michigan Science Center – Ed.].

“The Michigan Science Center is committed to the intelligent revitalization of our city,” Issner said. “By engaging Detroit Thermal, we are working alongside an organization that shares our long-term goals for the region.”

Built in 1978, the Science Center, designed by William Kessler Associates, was constructed to take advantage of the many benefits of district heating. When it was renovated and enlarged



The Michigan Science Center engages visitors in science, math and technology through a variety of entertaining hands-on exhibits.

to nearly 50,000 square feet in 2001, the architects and engineers who worked on the project decided that the efficiency and reliability of district energy made that the right choice for the newly expanded facility. During the center’s temporary closure, Detroit Thermal worked actively with the transition team to protect its assets.

“Detroit Thermal is pleased to be able to continue to service this important component in the city’s cultural center,” said Scott Barr, Detroit Thermal director of business development. The center, located at John R and Warren, features hundreds of fun hands-on exhibits, a planetarium show, and stage shows and demonstrations — all designed to intrigue adults and inspire

children’s interest in science.

For example, the current exhibit, The Science of Rock ‘n’ Roll, shows how science and technology influence music. Visitors can explore the history of rock and roll, learn how instruments work and how sound is produced. They can even take part in an interactive exhibit that remixes famous rock songs.

“The Michigan Science Center is one of many businesses that sees the benefit of renewable energy through Detroit Thermal steam,” said Rick Pucak, president of Detroit Thermal. “We are proud to work with the center to advance our mutual goal of revitalizing Detroit and investing in the city’s future.” ●

## SAFETY CORNER

## Busy summer was prelude to busy year

### Preventive maintenance projects completed; major system improvements in the works

A busy summer is being followed by an even busier fall and winter as Detroit Thermal embarks on an extensive improvement program for the distribution system.

"This summer, we used the period of low demand for steam to rebuild pressure-reducing valves at three main stations: one servicing the central business district, one servicing the north end of the distribution network, and a third at the Willis plant," said Paul Razo, Detroit Thermal distribution manager. "These projects help ensure that steam will flow through the system and be delivered to customers at the right pressure all winter long."

Another major accomplishment was the installation of a new type of manhole cover at many of the city's busiest pedestrian intersections. The new covers, made of a composite material instead of cast iron, prevent water or salt from seeping from the street into the manhole. They also reduce the flow of heat from underground to street level.

But the busy summer was only a prelude to a busy year of major renovation projects for Razo and his team.

"The new financing provided by the bond issue (see story on page 1) gives us the resources to completely

overhaul many aspects of the distribution system," Razo said. "We will be making infrastructure improvements that will serve the city for decades into the future."

Work in the tunnels such as improvements to pipe supports, insulation, expansion joints and valves is well under way. Installation of new pipe that will capture condensate from traps and bring it back to pump points also is planned.

"The new financing will allow us to make capital improvements to system infrastructure that ensure safe, reliable, efficient district heating for a very long time," Razo said. ●



Newly installed composite manhole covers look just like the old ones, but prevent water from getting into the manhole.

## State recognizes company's safety and health achievements

Detroit Thermal has received a Consultation Educational and Training Bronze Award from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) in recognition of its outstanding safety program. The award, presented earlier this year, cites the company's outstanding multi-year safety and health achievements and its comprehensive safety program.

The MIOSHA awards recognize companies that have reduced safety incidents over the past three years and that have done an outstanding job in articulating their safety and health programs.

MIOSHA Director Martha Yoder visited Detroit Thermal and presented the award to the management team.

"We are very pleased with the MIOSHA award and the agency's recognition of our safety program," said Rick Pucak, Detroit Thermal president. "But we are even prouder of the way in which all employees have embraced the safety program and moved us to this outstanding safety achievement. This award is for all of our employees, because it is everyone's ongoing commitment to safety that made it possible."

Sandra Kirsten, Detroit Thermal's safety consultant, said that the company's outstanding safety record is even more important than the award.

"We are approaching three years without a reportable injury or accident," Kirsten said. "That is a wonderful achievement that is only possible because employees are proactive in enhancing safety throughout the operation. We are all committed to staying diligent, staying safe." ●

## New VP named at Hamtramck Energy Services



Benson Davenport recently joined HES.

Benson Davenport has been appointed vice president for business development at Detroit Thermal's sister company, Hamtramck Energy Services (HES).

Davenport comes to HES after six years at Veolia Environmental Services, where he served as sales manager responsible for the Eastern region of the United States. While at Veolia, Davenport also completed a special program at the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland. Previously, he had worked in finance with HSBC.

Davenport will focus on large energy users such as medical centers, university campuses and large manufacturing facilities. These customers usually have powerhouses or other energy facilities that are required for, but are not part of their core business.

"HES can help these organizations

take a new look at what they spend for power, wastewater treatment and other energy-related services, and determine how they can make their utility costs a source of competitive advantage in their industries," Davenport said.

HES provides the specialized expertise needed for planning, staffing, operating, maintaining and managing powerhouses, including boilers, chiller compressors and wastewater treatment facilities.

"HES and Detroit Thermal are both dedicated to providing safe, reliable, cost-effective energy services," Davenport said. "Both companies look forward to playing a part in the revitalization of Detroit." ●

A Detroit Renewable Energy LLC Company



Detroit Thermal provides safe, reliable, cost-effective heating services to more than 140 buildings in the city's central business district. Detroit Thermal is a Detroit Renewable Energy LLC company.

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