



A NEW *GREEN* WAY OF DOING THINGS

Ford Motor Company is trying something new at the Ford Rouge Center in Dearborn, Michigan. The complex is getting a new look inside and out. Inside the new Dearborn Truck Plant, the latest technologies and machinery have been installed to build the best vehicles possible. Huge roof monitors and **skylights** make the plant brighter for employees while reducing energy bills.

Ford is trying very hard to make the **Rouge Center** a beautiful and environmentally responsible place to work. One of the most interesting projects is the world's largest **living roof** on the top of the Dearborn Truck Plant final assembly building. This living roof will be like a ten-acre garden on top of the factory. **Sedum**, a groundcover that comes up every year and requires very little water and care, has been planted on the roof.

There are many reasons for building this type of roof. Not only is it prettier than the usual type of roof, it also saves money and helps clean the air. The living roof helps keep the plant warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, reducing energy costs. The sedum on the roof traps dust, absorbs **carbon dioxide** and makes **oxygen**. All of these functions help improve the quality of air around the plant.

The most important reason for building the living roof is to reduce the amount of storm-water that flows into the Rouge River. Ford has also made changes to the surface of the parking lot. Porous pavement allows rainwater to be filtered and cleaned as it passes through the concrete surface instead of just running off into the river. As the living roof and the new pavement collect the storm-water, it is channeled in wetland-like ditches called **swales** for more filtering before it flows into the Rouge River.

Special plants have been planted to try and help clean up the soil which was affected by years of steel production. The plants may also continue to help keep the soil healthy. This experimental, biological process of using plants to help clean the soil is called **phytoremediation**.

All of these **innovative** ideas help the company clean air, water and soil, and they can save money in operating costs. More importantly, they help make the Ford Rouge Center an environmentally responsible place for workers, visitors, neighbors and wildlife.





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Think about the article you just read on page 1. Look back at the article to find the words you need to complete the crossword puzzle below. Reread if you need additional clues.

Workers install the Living Roof at the Rouge Center.



ACROSS

1. a gas made up of carbon and oxygen
3. a groundcover planted on the living roof
5. natural sources of light used at the Ford Rouge Center
7. a garden-like roof on top of the Dearborn Truck Plant
8. producing something absolutely new and different
9. a gas that living things need to breathe

DOWN

2. a large manufacturing plant located in Dearborn, Michigan
4. an experimental, biological process that cleans the soil
6. wetland-like ditches

