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### Eco-Friendly Dealership Aims For Certification

#### LaFontaine In Highland Claims To Be Michigan's First 'Green' Dealership.

POSTED: 12:52 pm EDT July 16, 2008  
UPDATED: 2:31 pm EDT July 16, 2008

**HIGHLAND, Mich.** -- LaFontaine Buick Pontiac GMC Cadillac dealership in Highland claims to be Michigan's first "green" dealership.

The dealership, which opened last month after relocating, said that of the \$15 million it spent in building costs, \$2 million was to install environmentally-friendly technology.

The dealership said it is aiming to become Michigan's first gold certified dealership, and possibly in the country.

standards are awarded through the U.S. Green Build Council.

The roof is painted white to deflect heat from the building and solar panels energize the building's geothermal heating and cooling system. The geothermal system alone came with a \$600,000 price tag. But the dealership said it will save 54 percent in annual operating costs.

More than 80 skylights filter in natural sunlight, and when they are sufficient all fluorescent lights turn off automatically.

The car wash saves 85 percent of the water it uses because it's cleaned and recycled.

The dealership recycles rain water it catches in a nearby basin to water the grass and plants around the dealership.

Even the hydraulic lifts the dealership uses in its repair shop are operated with vegetable oil.

The building also includes a gift shop, bistro, coffee car and even a nail and hair salon.


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