

Green Chemistry Grant Recipient Project Summary

Society of Automotive Engineers International Feasibility Study for Establishing a Center for Green Innovation & Technology

The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International was awarded a grant by the DEQ to explore the feasibility of creating a “Center for Green Innovation & Technology Transfer” by holding a workshop. Analyzing the feasibility of a center would help to promote green chemistry and green engineering, green products and technologies, and sustainable business practices within the automotive industry in Michigan. The workshop would be a jumping off point to create awareness within the automotive industry about green chemistry.

The workshop was held on April 30, 2010, and included a variety of presenters and people within the industry. The workshop focused on four areas that the green center could target:

- Materials and Research & Development
- Technology Transfer & the Supply Chain
- Education, Training, and Workforce Needs
- Principles, Standards, and Regulatory Trends

Lastly, the rest of the workshop was spent discussing the need for a center, how it could help in aiding the automotive industry to be greener, and concerns or issues that could be faced in the future. A survey was also given to gain a better understanding of their views on the workshop, a center, and green practices within the automotive industry.

Overall, the participants were receptive to a green center with concerns of wanting a defined set of goals for the center and possibly creating a network that would support green innovation initiatives and resources. They also discussed the potential for partnerships of the automotive sector with government and academia in green industry if a center was put in place. The participants agreed that a center could encourage green technology within the automotive industry. The participants gathered that the critical issues with the center are to define what “green” means, outline the scope and goals for the center, and gain stakeholder buy-in and commitment.

Following the workshop SAE International created an action plan that included:

- Creating standards that address “environmental, sustainable, and green issues” for the automotive industry.
- Creating an action plan for greener vehicle materials.
- Add “sustainable concepts” into professional development courses that eventually would lead to a certification program.

More information on the workshop can be obtained here:

<http://www.sae.org/events/green/>.

Through the workshop, a group was formed to direct standards on environmental sustainability issues in the automotive industry called the Green Technology Steering Committee. The Committee is currently working on a number of projects which include looking into designing less hazardous syntheses and using renewable feedstocks. More information can be obtained at

<http://www.sae.org/servlets/works/committeeHome.do?comtID=TEVGC>.