



Green Parking Council Awards the S. Fifth Avenue Underground Parking Structure Demonstrator Site Status

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Ann Arbor, MI -- The Green Parking Council has cited the [South Fifth Ave Underground Parking Structure](#) as a “Demonstrator Site,” noting it as a parking facility where a significant effort was made toward a sustainable design.

From the beginning of its planning for this project, the Ann Arbor DDA strove to minimize the project’s environmental impacts. For instance, the excavated sand from the site is being reused as part of the structural concrete for the project, and all demolished concrete, asphalt and wood from the site has been recycled. One hundred percent of the storm water that falls on the site will be detained, in excess of city requirements, and energy-saving lights will be used that can cast lower light levels in off-peak periods. The future structure will include 22 electric car charging stations and will set aside prime parking spaces for alternative fueled vehicles.

This structure is now part of a unique program designed to encourage the standardization of sustainable initiatives within the parking industry. Now that the Underground Parking Structure has achieved Demonstration Site Status, it will be among the first facilities eligible for Green Garage Certification in 2012!

About the Green Parking Council: The [Green Parking Council \(GPC\)](#) is a not-for-profit organization providing leadership and oversight for the green conversion of parking facilities to sustainable, environmentally responsible assets. They developed the Demonstrator Site Program as an evaluative tool to initiate the process towards Green Garage Certification. GPC is dedicated to expanding green parking practices and environmental services through its Certified Green Garage rating system. GPC encourages new, alternative parking practices and exceptional industry transportation through creative thought and ingenuity. By challenging garage owners and managers to collaborate and create open-sourced, sustainable best practices, the parking industry can positively impact the environment.

About the DDA’s Commitment to Sustainability: This effort is the latest in a number of DDA initiatives to promote [sustainability](#) as an essential component of downtown development. The DDA has committed nearly \$500,000 toward the [Energy Saving Grant Program](#), providing energy saving audits, recommendations, and installation rebates to downtown businesses. So far, the program has encouraged building owners to make nearly \$700,000 worth of improvements which are anticipated to save \$87,000/year in energy costs. The DDA also plays a significant role in [alternative transportation programs](#) by providing 95% of the cost for the popular go!pass (free bus pass for 7,100 employees), bike hoops and lockers, commuter rail research, Zipcar sponsorship, and the getDowntown Program. Additionally, the DDA provided the funds for the installation of a solar-electric demonstration project at the Farmers Market, [downtown LED street lights](#), energy efficient upgrades at the Delonis Center, and downtown sidewalk recycling containers.

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