

Dr. Green

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When the oil embargo hit in 1973, a young engineer at General Motors realized fossil fuels weren't the future of automotive technology. Since then, John Patten – who participated in the first Earth Day and who “already had a tree hugging bent” – has devoted much of his research to finding a new way to economically power vehicles. A recent project looking into powering plug in hybrid electric vehicles with alternative energy earned him statewide recognition. “One of the beauties of the academic environment is that you can do things off on the fringe that are difficult to do in industry.” His foray into PHEVs was serendipitous. His “day job” involves research into developing manufacturing techniques for silicon carbide, a key electrical conductor important for both wind turbines and hybrid vehicles – each an important step in reducing the nation's reliance on fossil fuels.

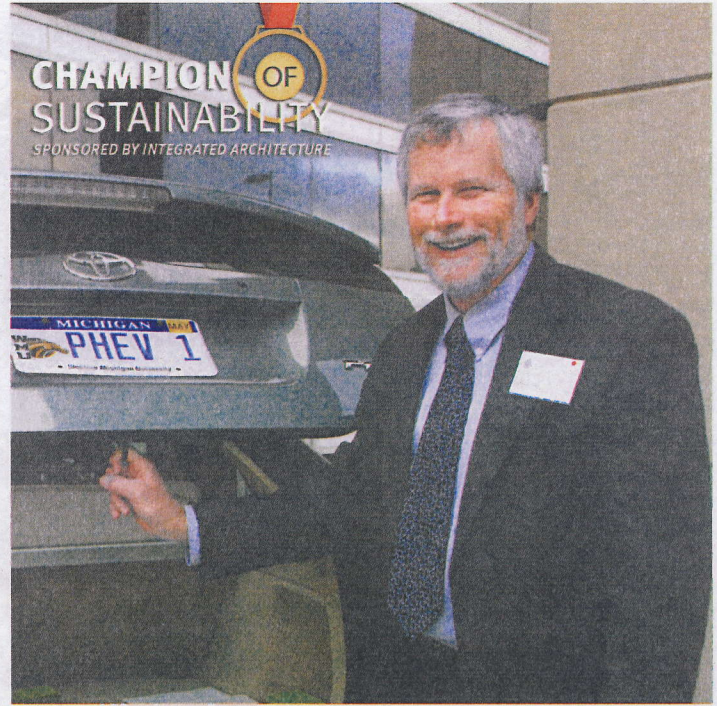


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