

intelligent forms of lifestyle

By
Jessica
Chapman

READY-Set-Go

A LOOK AT THE LATEST TRENDS IN TRANSPORTATION



Headquarter Honda in Lake County is the first Platinum LEED-certified commercial building in Florida.

HEADQUARTER HONDA

➤➤ From commuter trains to charging stations for electric cars to one of the nation's most innovative auto dealerships, the future of transportation is coming to Orlando.

DRIVING CHANGE

The greenest car dealer in Florida can be found right here in Clermont. Headquarter Honda is the state's first commercial building to be Platinum LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a status of the U.S. Green Building Council. It's no small feat, considering that less than 6 percent of the roughly 7,000 LEED-certified projects worldwide have platinum status.

The 48,000-square foot dealership was designed and constructed using

state-of-the-art "green" building materials and techniques, and features a variety of innovative amenities. The building generates 12.5 percent of its electricity, which is produced by 8,500 square feet of solar panels located on its rooftop, where a system of grass and other plants form a "rainforest" to help insulate the building. An on-site water system uses two underground barrels to collect rainwater, and reclaimed water is used for 100 percent of the property's landscaping irrigation. Inside, automatic faucets and low-flush toilets are standard, a "smart lighting" system turns lights off in unoccupied rooms, and 75 percent of regularly occupied areas are illuminated by natural sunlight rather than electricity.

Headquarter Honda is already reaping significant rewards from the über-efficient building, including energy savings of 33.4 percent over comparable traditionally built dealerships. Lower operating costs mean the dealership can pass the

savings on to its customers, but it's also working to share its insight with other companies, touting the notion that going green is not just the right thing for the environment, but it's good for business, too.

IT'S ELECTRIC

The future is here! Last summer, Orlando became the first American city to install a ChargePoint Networked Charging Station for electric vehicles (EV) as part of the \$37 million ChargePoint America program. In doing so, the city became eligible to receive hundreds of free home and public ChargePoint stations — an amenity that will come in handy as major automobile manufacturers continue producing car models powered by electricity.

ChargePoint America is a project of Coulomb Technologies, which will partner with Orlando Utilities Commission to install an additional 300 to 500 stations around Orange County,



Central Florida will soon be home to hundreds of ChargePoint stations.

GREEN POWER TECHNOLOGIES

making Central Florida the leading test market for the project.

Ultimately the company will provide nearly 5,000 charging stations to participants in nine U.S. cities. Local businesses that are interested in having public charging stations installed on site can submit an application through www.chargepointamerica.com, the program's website.

The trend is already catching on. Local company Sunshine Restaurant Corporation, which owns Central Florida's Buffalo Wild Wings restaurants recently teamed up with Progress Energy to unveil EV charging stations at its new Clermont and Kissimmee locations. This marks the first restaurant chain to offer the stations, which will be available free of charge to customers.

RIDING THE RAILS

As of press time, plans to move forward with construction of SunRail commuter lines throughout the Greater



SunRail commuter trains will link Central Florida from Kissimmee to DeLand.

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Our High Tech Team



Herbert L. Allen



Stephen H. Luther



Carl Napolitano, Ph.D.



Christopher Ramsey, Ph.D.



Christopher F. Regan



Ryan T. Santurri



Justin R. Sauer



Michael W. Taylor



Robert H. Thornburg



Richard K. Warther



John F. Woodson, II

Talk tech to us:



ALLEN, DYER, DOPPELT,

MILBRATH & GILCHRIST, P.A.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

ORLANDO • 407.841.2330 | JACKSONVILLE • 904.398.7000
MELBOURNE • 321.725.4760 | MIAMI • 305.374.8303
TAMPA • 813.639.4222 | WINTER SPRINGS • 407.796.5051
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Orlando area are still on track. SunRail, which will traverse four counties and link Poinciana in the south with Orlando and DeBarry to the north, is expected to receive 50 percent of its funding for Phases 1 and 2 from the federal government.

The first phase of the project includes 31 miles and will connect local communities along the I-4 corridor, paralleling the city's largest roadway, and expanding the area's transportation

options. Train stops are planned for Lake Mary, Longwood, Altamonte Springs, Maitland, and Winter Park in north Orlando, with central stops at downtown hospitals, the LYNX bus station, Church Street Station and Sand Lake Road.

The second phase will feature five more stations. Construction of a SunRail station in DeBarry is expected to begin by 2012, with service starting the following year.