



Warm and Fuzzy Cars

While we're all aware of the environmental impact of automobiles, and anyone with even a modicum of forethought has realized **the evils of Humm-vees** and gas-guzzling SUVs, many of us may not think about the less obvious side-effects of the auto industry: auto dealerships. These giant palaces of **motor worship** have sustainability issues quite apart from fossil fuels, including keeping those showrooms air-conditioned or heated, and dealing with the water waste that comes from keeping everything shiny and looking new. **BMW Auto West**, in Richmond, is taking the initiative on this front with a new **eco-minded dealership** opening Spring 2007. Construction on the 1.5-hectare lot broke ground earlier this fall and includes installation of a **geothermal heating and cooling system** that uses Earth's natural properties to moderate indoor temperatures and a recycling system that re-uses some 90 per cent of car-wash water. In addition, the dealership will feature a **green-roof system** and sustainable landscaping. Looky-loos and green-architecture enthusiasts can check out all the details at autowest.bmw.ca.