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...om the same hard drive. serful's DiscoverStation software is installed with extra video cards in a single PC, which is hooked up to several monitors with their own keyboards. The concept has proven successful in Canadian libraries, as well as school systems in the United States and South Africa; other applications around the world include nursing stations, call centres and internet cafés. "Finding a peaceful exit from this environmental predicament we've created for ourselves requires doing more with less," says company president Timothy Griffin. At its count, 1,775 hard drives had been sold to run more than 10,000 workstations. The firm estimates that in the past year its software saved more than 1,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from computer operations and manufacturing — roughly equivalent to taking 2,300 cars off the road.

— Carol Hilton ■

...ge and build a green economy that is strong enough to lift people out of poverty. ■

— Van Jones, founder and president of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, California, speaking in September about his vision of the environmental movement driving social change ■

infrastructure ■

BOTANICAL SCREENS

A GREEN technology that has been all the rage in Germany for 20 years — the living wall — is finally taking root in Canada. Instead of the usual graffiti-covered concrete or wooden sound barriers alongside highways, entrepreneurs envision lush, four-metre-high rows of willow shrubs.

They say the botanical barriers are easier to maintain and absorb sound, rather than bouncing it back like conventional walls. As an added bonus: each kilometre of willows — planted in two rows half a metre

apart with a mound of soil in between — sequesters nearly seven tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Tony Biglieri, president of a Toronto-based company that is the first to adapt the living wall to Canadian weather conditions, says the response to the new barriers along busy roads around Toronto and Saint-Bruno, Que. (BELOW), has been enthusiastic. "You need a tank to knock this thing down," he says. "It never gets dirty. You can't write on it. As it gets older, it just gets better."

— Alex Roslin ■

