

# WEST ENERGY NEWS April 2010

"To educate and advocate for a clean, sustainable energy future for the Macatawa area." [www.westmichiganenergy.org](http://www.westmichiganenergy.org)

## Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm -- A Double-Feature WEST Evening

1. From Persia to Today: a short film on wind energy history
2. Wind in Lake Michigan? An update on plans to build Wind Farm Offshore from Muskegon

Join WEST and presenters Richard Orawiec and Vern Gebben  
In discussion of these two topics at the DeGraaf Nature Center,  
600 Graafschap Road (near corner with 26<sup>th</sup> St.). Open to all.  
Free, with small donations welcomed to cover rental costs.



## APRIL 12: 6:30 P.M. : REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY FORUMS

A summary of ideas for a sustainable water and energy future in the Holland-area will be reported by Sustainability Forum facilitator Mark DeRoo on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at Herrick Library auditorium.

From the end of January through mid-March, DeRoo facilitated 19 forums in each ward and with multiple interest groups.

Several people who attended a number of different forums described the people attracted to them as 'Holland's sustainability community.' Each meeting challenged participants to think about what goals they'd like to see met by 2047, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holland's founding.

The process is a project of Holland's Sustainability Committee, which has been charged with writing a plan for a sustainable future in the area.

All area citizens are welcomed!



## WIND TRENDS to WATCH in 2010

Wind power will keep its 6-year rise as the second leading source of new power in the U.S., trailing natural gas powered plants, says the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA).

With over 1,000 2MW wind turbines in operation, wind turbines will continue a trend toward more powerful units, AWEA expects.

An often unnoted aspect of wind energy is that it saves the use of water associated with cooling in fossil-fuel plants. In 2009, wind saved 20 billion gallons of water.

AWEA notes that wind turbine prices are falling just as government incentives are rising, giving businesses a push to invest in this alternative energy. AWEA is the national wind energy trade association.



## **WEST Says YES to**

ideas for energy efficiency, conservation, sustainability, and significant lowering of energy production, making a difference locally with seven future generations in mind.

**WEST holds public meetings with speakers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm.**

**Planning meetings  
Are held at Herrick Library  
4:30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.  
All welcome!!!**

Co-chairs:

Don Triezenberg and Sara Leeland

Treasurer: Russ Packard

Founders: Marty Dugan & John  
Fulenwider

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**GROWTH VS SUSTAINABILITY**

## **WEST Proposed Energy Policy**

In a February 26 letter to Holland City Council, WEST formally asked the city to consider environmental and social impacts of future energy choices along with the traditional focus on economic costs.

“According to the EPA, those who live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant are most exposed to pollutants” such as particulates, nitrous oxides and mercury. Asthma is triggered by exposure to the first two of those.

“Developmental delays in fetuses, babies and children are related to exposure to air-borne mercury.”

Further, the letter asked that any decision about a new power plant be delayed until Holland’s Sustainability Committee has developed a long-range energy plan.

WEST has not received any response to its letter.

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At its March 23<sup>rd</sup> planning meeting, WEST members present proposed a formal policy position in response to the current Holland BPW request for a permit to build a 78MW coal-fired power plant to replace the DeYoung plant on Pine Avenue. That policy follows.

To achieve a sustainable energy future in Holland, WEST thinks that all alternatives to coal-burning need to be pursued.

WEST asks that City Council NOT approve any new coal-fired power plant construction until:

(1) City Council clearly considers and makes public its information on the health and environmental impacts of coal-burning along with the cost-figures provided by Black and Veach.

(2) Rates that encourage reduction in peak demand have been in place long enough to estimate real needs for more electricity production.

(3) Serious efforts have been made by citizens and businesses to lower their use of air-conditioning through use of such techniques as white roofs, solar attic fans, and accepting warmer indoor temperatures.

(4) The Sustainability Committee proposes and City Council adopts 2050 goals for reduction in use of coal-burning, along with energy-efficiency incentives needed to reach these goals.

Please direct comments on this statement to:

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