

WEST ENERGY NEWS

AUGUST 2009

"to educate and advocate for a clean, sustainable energy future for the Macatawa area" www.westmichiganenergy.org

Re-Energize Michigan!

State Dems and Business Coalition propose plan to make state alternative energy leader

On July 27, a coalition of business leaders and legislators offered a plan to 'catapult Michigan forward' in creating clean energy jobs. The plan:

- * creates business incentives by requiring that 30% of electricity come from renewable energy by 2025;
- * requires utilities to achieve 2% yearly energy conservation across their customer base;
- * requires building codes to increase energy efficiency.

According to the U.S. Dept. Of Energy, Michigan is one of four states that could create 30,000 manufacturing jobs in the wind sector. The May '09 state Green Jobs Report shows that green-related firms show job growth of 7.7 percent. Renewable energy production firms hit a

30% growth rate. Michigan already has 109,067 private sector jobs in green business, the report says.

WEST supports the 'Re-Energize' campaign. A form showing how to contact your state legislators is available at www.westmichiganenergy.org or by e-mail to saraleeland@sbcglobal.net.



Holland Energy

On July 20th, the Sustainability Committee agreed that Holland should join the state-sponsored Green Communities program, a designation that opens the door to federal grants. On Aug. 17, the committee will vote on a proposed city-structures/activities energy conservation plan. Committee members noted that a city-wide energy conservation plan also needs to be drawn up.

On Aug. 10, the HBPW board listened to a Praxair Representative explain that Holland is now their first choice for a CO2 sequestration site if they obtain the competitive grant from DOE. Ideal geology in Holland was the major factor. The board supported a continued role in the program.



Bob Mihos:
Holland
Energy-
Saving
Plan

By year's end expect to see 219 owners of old refrigerators get a \$30 payment for turning them in through HBPW, said HBPW conservation chief Bob Mihos in his July 21 talk at DeGraaf Nature Center. First come, first paid. Also expect a total of 3.2 million kilowatt hours saved through an array of conservation measures. In the first year, the biggest effort will address business and industry, who are the largest electricity users. And expect the effort to show up on your electric bill:

- \$3 for residences
- \$16 business and churches
- \$187.50 industrial.

"Conservation is the most cost-effective way to provide future energy capacity. If we can save enough energy, we don't have to build more [generating] units," Mihos concluded.

Find the entire energy optimization plan online at: www.hollandbpbw.com.

GMB: LOCAL LEADER IN GREEN ENERGY

A regional leader in engineering for wind, solar, geothermal and hybrid systems, Holland's GMB architecture-engineering, can chalk up a long list of regional achievements. Local projects include a wind turbine and 1,000-watt solar unit at Zeeland West High School plus another solar unit at Zeeland Middle School. GMB installed a geothermal heat pump systems at Zeeland West, Zeeland Quincy, Macatawa Bank on Waverly Road, Baldwin and Jamestown Elementary Schools in Hudsonville, Muskegon's C-TEC College, and three schools in Allendale.

Zeeland West is among the most energy efficient schools in the nation. Through the use of a geothermal heat pumps, the district realizes up to 70% savings in heating and 50% savings in cooling of the building. In addition, the school has features to conserve water, to provide high efficiency lighting, and to maintain a high quality of indoor air. A wind turbine, constructed in partnership with the city of Zeeland, generates electrical power.

GMB is located in the center of downtown at 85 East 8th St..For more information, go to: www.gmb.com.

CENTRAL WESLEYAN CHURCH GOES GREEN!

Like many other area churches, Central Wesleyan was already using CFL bulbs, motion sensors and other common ways to save energy. But when summer heat hits, they use ice, made during off-peak energy hours, as the air-coolant. Carbon dioxide levels produced by people breathing are monitors, so the amount of fresh air (warm or cool) meets the comfort and safely needs of people while not being over-used. A indoor-outdoor air monitoring system makes 'decisions' about the most efficient use of heating. For example, this may mean using cooler outside air instead of mechanical air-conditioning.

Put together, the energy systems have helped save thousands of dollars a month, says Dwayne Dreyer, Director of Facilities. "Money saved means more for ministry needs," he adds. And the church thinks that churches should be setting providing a good example of Christian stewardship in lowering energy use. The church is located at 446 W. 40th St. in Holland.

WEST MAKING LIST OF GREEN BUILDINGS IN MAC WATERSHED AREA

Area construction expert (and WEST member) Russ Packard is making a list of buildings using wind (like Earl's Meat's) or solar (like ZEELAND WEST high school) or, those like Central Wesleyan and City Flats in Holland, using a variety of techniques to lower their energy use (and cost).

Know of a home with wind or solar? A business saving energy in strong ways? Want to enroll your own home as an energy-saving model? Send notes to Russ (russ.packard@sbcglobal.net) so our list can be more comprehensive. Thinking ahead, wouldn't it be great to have a GREEN BUILDINGS tour as part of tulip time?

WEST Says YES

to:

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Conservation
- Energy Efficiency
- Significant Lowering of all Pollution from Energy Production
- Making a Difference in our Community, with Seven Future Generations in Mind

In addition to its summer programs

WEST will meet on the
Fourth Tuesday of each month

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Aug 25 -- Herrick Library

Co-chairs

Don Triezenberg & Sara Leeland
Committees

Nonprofit: Chris Byrnes & Dave Trudell

Co-founders: Marty Dugan & John
Fulenwider

Policy: Mark Rich

Education: Don Triezenberg

Research: David Trudell

John Fulenwider

Treasurer: Russ Packard



Newsletter: Sara Leeland

saraleeland@sbcglobal.net

WEST online at: westmichiganenergy.org

CLIMATE CHANGE THOUGHTS

"Climate change poses clear, catastrophic threats. ...The problem will not be solved without mass participation by the general public in countries around the globe."

[Rupert Murdoch](#), global media mogul



"We are upsetting the atmosphere upon which all life depends. In the late 80s, we referred to global warming as a "slow motion catastrophe",

expected to kick in generations later. Instead, the signs of change have accelerated alarmingly."

[David Suzuki](#), Canadian science writer

