

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

## WEST WEDNESDAYS

### A January Lunch Series on Energy Conservation

Herrick District Library      Hazel Hayes Auditorium  
January 7, 14, 21 and 28      12:00 NOON – 1:00 PM  
Free lunch provided

**Jan. 7 -- *Kilowatt Ours*, a video about re-thinking our electric energy system and controlling costs through efficiency and conservation.** Discussion of the ideas will be led by Don Triezenberg, PhD. Help us develop a framework for community reflection on our electricity use.

**Jan. 14 -- Ethics and Energy Conservation/efficiency.** Panelists: Steven Bouma-Prediger, professor of religion at Hope College, Mark Rich, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Jim Liske, pastor at Ridge Point Community Church, and Sara Leeland, professor of philosophy (ret.). How do you make decisions about energy?

**Jan. 21 -- Practical energy conservation in homes and businesses.** A short video on building a home windmill; and a panel of three experts on new energy paths: Steve Hamstra of GMB Architects and Engineers, Chris Byrnes of Viability and Ken Freestone of the West Michigan Strategic Alliance. Bring questions about energy conservation!

**Jan. 28 -- What's happening about energy in Holland?** Holland Mayor Al McGeehan will describe city actions; Greg Mayberry will report on sustainability work at Hope College and new City Community Sustainability Committee will add insights.



Herrick District Library and WEST are co-sponsors of the series. Check out the library's resources books, magazines and films on energy!

## Think ahead to 2009 Energy Week!

This Spring's Energy Week will start with the Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> Two-Green St. Patrick's Day Parade. Monday will see an evening forum called: "Holland Responds to Climate Change: Achievements and Needs", sponsored by the Holland-area League of Women Voters. On Wednesday, the 3E group will show the film *Reinventing the World*, followed by discussion. Saturday March 21 will have a "Cool Congregations" workshop led by West Michigan's Creation Care group. Other films, discussions and displays are in the planning.

Have an idea? Some information you'd like to be sure to see? Belong to a group that would like to sponsor an event for the Week? Contact the Energy Week Coordinator Marty Dugan at: [mpdugan@macatawa.org](mailto:mpdugan@macatawa.org)

## WHICH SHOULD COME FIRST: PERMIT or NEW NEED STATEMENT?

Public hearings on air quality concerns about Holland's planned 78 megawatt coal plant are scheduled by the state Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Jan 12 and 13. All citizens affected by coal-plant emissions are invited to attend.

### DEQ Hearings Schedule

Jan. 12

Info Session: 5 p.m.

Public Hearing: 7 p.m.

Jan. 13

Info Session: 4:30 p.m.

Public Hearing 12 & 5:30 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel

650 E. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Holland

The 2008 state energy law asks utilities to show how they will ensure both energy efficiency and conservation in a March 6 2009 report. Renewable energy plans are due on April 6. Some citizens plan to ask DEQ to delay the decision on a new plant until after the conservation and renewables plans are in place.

A need statement is not required by the DEQ. But citizens and customers who will pay for the new plant can ask the Holland Board of Public Works for a clear, updated needs projection.

At its January session, the DEQ made clear that it cannot require coal plants to lower CO2 until legally required to do so.