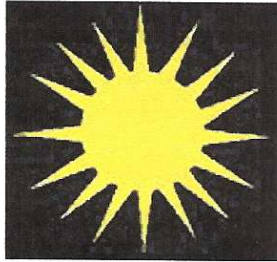


## WEST says YES to:

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



WEST meets on the first Tuesday of each month 8 - 9:30 a.m. Check place at [www.westmichiganenergy.org](http://www.westmichiganenergy.org)

Co-chairs

Chris Byrnes & David Trudell  
Committees

Policy: Mark Rich

Education: Don Triezenberg

Research: David Trudell

John Fulenwider

Newsletter: Sara Leeland  
[saraleeland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saraleeland@sbcglobal.net)

## What's New & Green in Holland? Our COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

On Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, Holland City Council created a new 'green' committee to advise the city on such issues as energy conservation, efficiency and supply, implementation of the 2008 City Energy Audit, air quality, waste recycling and reduction, water quality/conservation, and transportation.

The committee is asked to collect ideas from the community, organize education and public forums and provide recommendations to the City and the Board of Public Works.

The committee will have 9 members. Four will be named by the Board of Public Works and 5 named by the City Council. Up to 4 members may live outside Holland City if they are within the service area of the Board of Public Works. In addition, 2 non-voting liaison members would represent Holland and the Board of public Works.



Photo  
*Something green  
popping up*

The new committee idea was developed by a temporary committee asked to create a process for citizen input on energy/environmental needs in Holland. Members of that committee included Jane Clark of the Holland Chamber of Commerce, Steve VanderVeen of Hope College, Greg Holcombe of the Riverview Group, Paul Murray of Herman Miller, Councilmember David Hoekstra and BPW member Rich Cook.

Interested in being appointed to the new committee? Applications are available at City Hall on River and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets or on line at [www.cityofholland.com](http://www.cityofholland.com).

## COAL FACTS: 101

### What's Left After the Coal Burns?

The Christmastime coal-ash spill in Tennessee made headlines across the nation and led coal-conscious folk to think past air emissions to the other products of burning coal.

After the smoke rolls out of the stacks, what's left down below? It's 'bottom ash' and 'scrubber sludge' along with other ground-level coal waste. Federal studies say that coal ash contains arsenic, lead and selenium, causes of cancer and neurological problems. But EPA classifies coal-ash as 'non-hazardous' waste. Some plants, like the one in Tennessee, have on-site storage 'ponds', but it usually ends up in landfills that have a liner and leak detection system.

Here in Holland, combustion waste from the DeYoung plant is trucked by Zeeland's DeYoung Industrial Disposal to the Allied Ottawa County Farms Landfill, just off 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Coopersville. That's also where Granger Energy is tapping landfill methane gas (like CO<sub>2</sub>, a contributor to climate change) to generate 6.4 megawatts of electricity each year, powering 4,070 homes. In December, 2008, Holland City Council approved city purchase of electricity from that site as part of its renewable energy portfolio.



Photo: Coal-ash bricks

End of story? Not quite. EPA has a new web site (c2p2) that discusses ways to recycle coal wastes into construction and road materials instead of land filling them. Exelon Power in Illinois and Pennsylvania is reusing nearly 100% of its coal combustion waste to make fertilizing agents and to stabilize coal mine sites.