

# WEST ENERGY NEWS

July 2009

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

## ENERGY-SAVING WORK BRINGS 30 COMMUNITY ACTION JOBS

Federal stimulus support will add 30 energy-saving jobs in Ottawa County this fall, says Mark Kornelis, director of the Community Action Agency program, in his June 13 talk to a WEST audience. In past years, the CAA replaced furnaces, added insulation and did other energy efficiency work in 50 to 80 lower-income homes in Ottawa County. The stimulus is lifting that total up to 500 homes a year, for five years.

This is a nation-wide program aimed to both aid lower-income citizens and lower emissions of greenhouse gases. The stimulus put \$112 billion into this and other green initiatives. 'Lower income' can equal up to \$44,000 for a family of four. Long-term renters as well as owners are eligible. For more information, contact the agency at: 12251 James St., # 300, Holland 49424; 616-393-4433; or online: <http://www.co.ottawa.mi.us/HealthComm/CAA/>



## NEW PUBLICATION: LAKESHORE FIRST

'Creating a sustainable local economy' will be the focus of a launched-in-August magazine from the editors of *Urban Street*. *Lakeshore* will showcase local businesses and groups that exemplify the links between 'environmental kinship, social responsibility and economic prosperity.'

Watch for it in all the places you find *Urban St.*



## On the Front Edge ... Of Energy

A series of Tuesday Evening Events

**JULY 14<sup>th</sup>**

**7 p.m. "What does the new energy optimization plan mean for YOU?"**

**Bob Mihos, HBPW Conservation Manager**



In 2009, all Michigan utilities filed an optimization (efficiency/conservation) plan, covering residential, business and industrial users, with an energy savings goal of 5.5% by 2015. How can citizens and businesses and local job-hunters interact with this program? Bob Mihos is the man in charge.

**AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup>**

**7 pm**

**Jeff Ebihara, V.P. at Consert, Inc.**  
**"What can the new 'Smart Grid' do to lower energy costs in your home?"**

Ebihara will help us envision the fast-arriving future.

Sponsored by WEST Energy  
DEGRAAF NATURE CENTER 600 Graafschap Rd.  
Holland 49423 Free Open to the Public

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ACTION

At last meeting, a draft city energy-saving plan was presented for comment. The plan includes already-approved \$200,000 for LED traffic signals (saving \$65,000 of energy costs per year), new targets for energy reductions, naturalizing public spaces.

Next meeting: Monday  
July 20, 4 pm City Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Come & see the city's newest committee in action.



## Climate Change Sends Michigan Mammals North

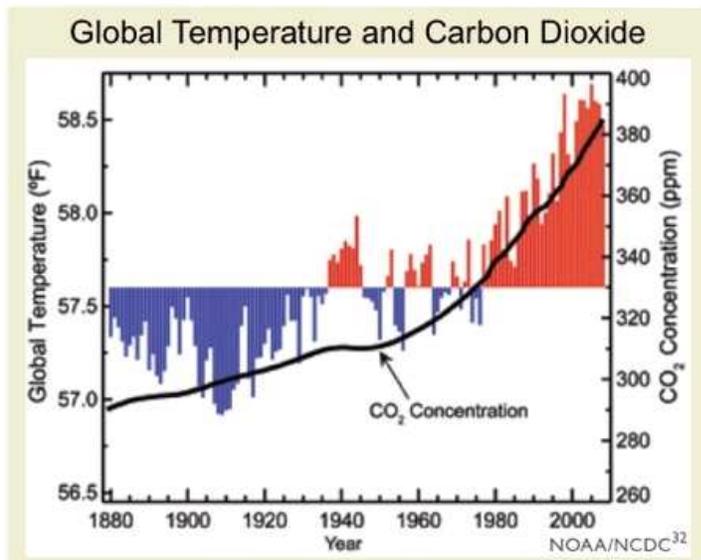
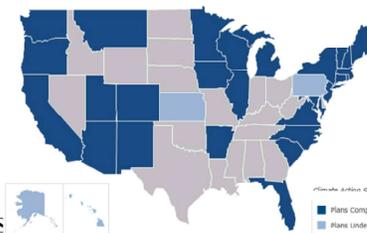
Some Michigan mammal species are rapidly expanding their ranges northward, apparently in response to climate change, a new study shows. In the process, historically southern species are replacing their northern counterparts. The northbound species are opossums, flying squirrels, eastern chipmunks and white-footed mice. Across all 16 sites studied, average annual minimum daily temperatures have increased significantly.



The finding, by researchers at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Ohio's Miami University, appears in the June issue of *Global Change Biology*.

## New America Foundation's Climate Policy Site

has an online tool that allows state-by-state tracking of hundreds of carbon and energy saving measures. The State Climate Policy Tracker details each state's climate action plan. It provides data on climate actions across six economic sectors, and reports on the progress of each measure, its cost or cost-savings, the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) removed, and the estimated annual reduction in carbon emissions. [www.newamerica.net/programs/climate/](http://www.newamerica.net/programs/climate/)



Climate scientist JAMES HANSEN on his activism: "I decided that I didn't want my grandchildren to say 'Opa understood what was happening, but he didn't make it clear.'" (As in his projection that "if you melt all the ice, sea levels will go up 250 feet.")

New Yorker 6-29-09, 42,49



## 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 (p.1)

WEST will meet on the Fourth Tuesday of each month 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Jul 28 -- Herrick Library  
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



Newsletter: Sara Leeland  
saraleeland@sbcglobal.net

WEST online at: [westmichiganenergy.org](http://westmichiganenergy.org)

## AND, IN THE NETHERLANDS

"Amsterdam has set its sights on becoming Europe's first "intelligent" city, with ...a smart grid, smart meters, electric vehicles and smart building design.

The city hopes to supply a third of its electricity needs with local renewable energy sources by 2025...[and ]to slash its CO2 emissions by 40 percent, from 1990 levels". *Env.Leader* 6-08-09



