

WEST ENERGY NEWS MAY 2010

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

Could *Your* Home be a 'Leader in Energy Efficiency'?

Tuesday, May 11th 7 pm

Calvin DeLano

Executive Director of Alliance for Environmental Sustainability
A nonprofit group that focuses on green homes

Learn about state-of-the-art LEED strategies in five areas:
Home energy efficiency, water savings, site, materials
and resources selection, and
indoor environmental quality

Holland's DeGraaf Nature Center, 600 Graafschap Road

SPONSORED BY WEST, Holland's Sustainable Energy Group
Free and open to all -- bring a friend!



WEST Flier: 9 of Holland's Green Spots

Want to sample some of the green energy spots in Holland? Go to our website and download the flier listing nine sites now using green energy.

WEST members Kris Hunter and Jane Packard developed the flier for Tulip Time in cooperation with eight businesses (and one park) who agreed to answer questions about their lighting, geothermal energy, wind turbines or green energy products.

It's the first step in mapping how the Macatawa area is transitioning into a greener future!



Will Holland Get a Permit for New Coal Plant?

It's been three years since Holland's BPW asked Michigan for a permit to build a new 78MW coal-fired power plant. In 2009, the state held public hearings, followed by requests for information showing need for the plant. In early 2010, consultants Black & Veatch presented an energy-needs assessment and possible paths to meet the need, documents that HBPW forwarded to the state.

At that point, Holland City Council asked its new Sustainability Committee to formulate a long-range sustainable energy plan, work now in progress.

How do these two actions fit together?

(cont. on p. 2)



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 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm.

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

Co-chairs:

Don Triezenberg and Sara Leeland

Treasurer: Russ Packard

Founders: Marty Dugan & John

Fulenwider

Facebook editor: Sylvia Avsharian

News editor: Sara Leeland

www.westmichigan.energy.org

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This Way To
Sustainability



HOLLAND COAL PERMIT? (cont. from p. 1)

WEST co-chairs Sara Leeland and Don Triezenberg have each written to the Michigan Public Service Commission, asking that no permit be issued until the Sustainability long-range plan is in place.* This city plan could ask Hollanders to achieve greater energy efficiency and lowering of greenhouse gases than does current state law, the guideline assumed by both Black & Veatch reports and by HBPW. Both in Holland and across the nation, businesses are reporting cost-saving effects of energy efficiency, showing that lowering energy use can be an economic asset.

On the state level, the MPSC will first make a permit decision about need. The Dept. of Natural Resources & Environment is now accepting comments on environmental impacts of alternative plans. Citizens and groups have until June 7 to file letters.** Most importantly, letters should address ways that alternatives to a new coal-fired power plan could meet the area's energy needs with less environmental impact.

If a permit is granted to HBPW, Holland City Council will need to approve the decision to build, a decision that should precede by a sustainable-energy plan. Citizens and groups can ask Council to publicly address how building a new power-plants fits into that long-term sustainable-energy plans, and how it is a better choice than other alternatives.***

* Those letters can be read at the MPSC website:

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=16077>

** Letters to DNRE can be sent to:

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/cwerp.shtml>

Scroll down page to Holland BPW, click on 'submit comment.'

***Go to www.cityofholland.com for council emails.

Solar Panels Top Parking Lots!

Imagine driving into a shady place in your favorite parking lot, right under a solar 'tree' that is also generating energy. That's the trend that *Envision Solar* is setting, starting with lots at McDonald's, Johnson & Johnson, and Dell. And the spots aren't all out West. J&J put a 'solar grove' on a Pennsylvania site!

Reported by *Environmental Leader*
May 4, 2010

