

WEST ENERGY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

Wonder where to recycle your used CFLs?

ACE Hardware, 835 Lincoln Ave., Holland
HOME DEPOT, 3530 West Shore Dr. Holland
OTTAWA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER, 14053 Quincy St., north of Holland, about 2.5 miles west of US 31.



Great News For West Michigan Wind Sites!

A *Grand Rapids Press* editorial on August 26, 2009 said the region might be "going with the wind" as a result of collaboration among colleges to make west Michigan a wind energy development area.

Northern Allegan County is cited as "one of the best regions in Michigan for harvesting wind energy" according to a study by Michigan State University's Land Policy Institute. With Allegan County's unique proximity to urban areas, "it could eventually support up to 300 wind turbines as demand grows".

Since Allegan County borders the Holland-area, that raises the question: Should Holland look for wind energy closer to home? That could help local jobs grow.

WEST Speaker Kyle Denning Tuesday September 8, 7 - 8:30 pm



Kyle Denning, carbon-credit manager at Holland's viability, will explain how to calculate your home or business carbon footprint and answer questions about carbon-credits. Bring your friends to what promises to be a lively evening!

DeGraaf Nature Center, 600 Graafschap Rd in Holland.

Events Elsewhere of Interest

Bill McKibben, author, educator and environmentalist will be sponsored by the Ecology Center on **November 11, 2009 at Rackham Auditorium** at the **University of Michigan--Ann Arbor**. McKibben will speak at **8 pm**. McKibben will speak about his new book, Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future. He is concerned with the impact of sustainable, local communities and how to sustain them. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$10 for students. Contact Stephanie Feldstein at Stephanie@ecocenter.org for tickets and more information.

Update on DeYoung Expansion Plans

The DeYoung plant has moved to the #1 position for Praxair Energy's Carbon Capture Sequestration (CCS) grant application to the US Dept. of Energy.

Loren Howard, General Manager of HBPW met with the Sustainability Committee on Aug. 17 to report on the status of Michigan's DEQ request for information on alternatives to the permit request for a 78 mw plant. Howard said that the HBPW should be exempt from reporting that information because De Young is part of a municipal utility rather than a for-profit corporation.

Howard said that CCS will use about 30% of the energy generated by the proposed plant, leaving the community with under 50 MW for its needs. An obvious question is: Does that mean that consumer bills will be at least 30% higher than present bills?

On August 19, Holland Rep. Joe Haveman introduced a state-liability bill, HR 5263, that would make Michigan liable for any harm stemming from injury caused by CCS. It would also allow a local government to "take" private property situated within or without its corporate limits for use as a storage facility.

Check out the bill online by inserting the bill number at: www.legislature.mi.gov. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology for action. At that same web site, you can sign in for news of committee action on this bill.

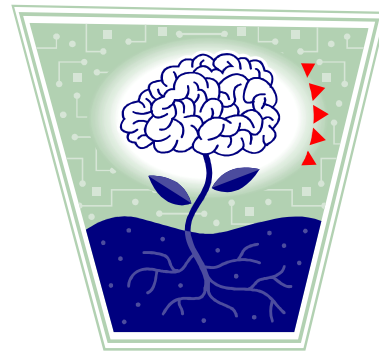
Let Rep. Haveman know your thoughts at:
N-1194 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: (517) 373-0830
Toll Free: (866) 908-4347

Email: JosephHaveman@house.mi.gov

Worth noting

According to the U.S. Energy Information Admin. the U.S. renewable energy industry continues to grow. **As of April 2009, renewable energy accounted for 11.1 percent of U.S. production, exceeding nuclear power.**



WEST Says YES to

ideas for energy efficiency, conservation, sustainability, and significant lowering of energy production, making a difference locally with 7 future generations in mind.

WEST holds public meetings with speakers at the DeGraaf Nature Center on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm

WEST's next planning meeting will be in Herrick Library basement on Sept. 29, 7-8:30 pm.

Co-chairs:

Don Triezenberg and Sara Leeland
Treasurer: Russ Packard

Committees:

Policy: Mark Rich
Education: Don Triezenberg
Research: Dave Trudell & John Fuldenwider
Non-profit status: Chris Byrnes & Dave Trudell

Founders: Marty Dugan and John Fuldenwider.

Newsletter: Jill Henke at rhcomm@yahoo.com

At its August 25 meeting, **WEST** decided to collect yearly \$10 membership dues to sustain the cost of event meeting-places, the newsletter and other mailings. These dues are not yet tax deductible. Details will be sent by e-mail from the treasurer.