

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. At
Holland Area Arts Council
150 E. 8th St.
JOIN US!

Co-chairs: Chris Byrnes
David Trudell

Committees:

Policy: Mark Rich

Education: Don Triezenberg

Research: David Trudell

John Fulenwider

Newsletter: Sara Leeland
send news and comments to:
saraleeland@sbcglobal.net

Happy Holidays!
to the
**Boys and Girls Club
Of Greater Holland**
From
Grandpa John & Uncle Marty



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What's the payoff of an energy inspection?

For me it was a fresh way of looking at my home. When Don Bergman of Holland's Lakeshore Home Inspection arrived at 2:00 p.m., I was focused on attic insulation needs. His 3-page Energy Inspection check list, compiled after two hours of taking notes, did recommend 10 to 12 more inches of insulation in my attic. No surprise.

But some items were unexpected:

- Insulate the 'rim joists' -- the heavy wood that forms the top perimeter around my basement.
- Put a vapor barrier on the floor of the crawl-space beneath my small front entryway, insulate the walls and seal the door to the space.
- Check the insulation around the recessed lights in the kitchen, a typical energy loss site.



These three points (and others) had never occurred to me. So the 3-page check list is now my to-do list. The discussion helped prioritize the steps to energy-efficiency.

Don told me that he didn't have the infra-red camera that's required for qualifying as a full-energy-auditor. But his 'energy inspection' was what I needed to form a home energy- efficiency plan for now. As a former teacher, I rank his work as A+. Call him at 616-355-3184.

-- Sara Leeland, WEST editor

Federal and Michigan Tax Credits for Home Efficiency Improvements

In October, 2008, Congress passed an extension of 2005 tax deductions related to energy efficiency. **Fed. tax form 5695** includes a tax credit for purchase of efficient furnaces, boilers, air conditioners, water heaters, insulation and exterior door or window upgrades to existing homes. For more information, go online to: www.energytaxincentives.org

Starting in 2009, homeowners with single income below \$37,500 or couple income below \$75,000 can file for **state tax credits** for 10% of the purchase price of: energy efficient clothes washers/dryers, dishwasher, refrigerators/freezers, water heaters, furnaces, building insulation and windows.

The maximum credit is \$75 per improvement for single filers; \$150 per improvement for joint filers. Equipment must meet or exceed EPA Energy Star criteria and claimant must provide proof of equipment cost and efficiency qualifications. ([S.B. 1048](#))

"I have advocated for funding toward energy upgrades in older central city wood frame low income homes. I have challenged us to get into wind energy. I have voted for test areas to determine the type and location of energy efficient streetlights. I am pushing both the City and BPW to create a standing City Green Commission so that we can be intentional about identifying and achieving significant energy related goals." -- Holland Mayor Al McGeehan, speaking to 3-Es Initiative, Nov. 13

"We are the first generation of Americans in the Energy-Climate Era. ...We are all Pilgrims again. We have not been to this shore before. ...If we rise to this challenge and truly become the Re-generation we, and the world, will not only survive but thrive in an age that is hot, flat and crowded." --

-- T. L. Friedman *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, p. 412



